THE READER

A REVIEW OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

No. 15.

Saturday, April 11, 1863.

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THE READER.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1863.

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VOLUNTEERING AND LITERATURE.

THE EASTER BURLESQUES

THE great Volunteer Field - day of last Monday at Brighton—the most successful exhibition that there has yet been of the real working capabilities of our Volunteer Force—is this week a worthy topic for all our newspapers. It claims, not the less, the tribute of a special notice in the columns of a literary journal. It is not for us, indeed, to chronicle the incidents of the affair, or describe the entire action. All this the newspapers have told as amply and minutely as need be. From us a few words on the connexions that there obviously are, or that a little thought can make out, between Volunteering and Literature, will be the most fitting recognition of this notable fact of the

And, first, as every one knows, a great many of our literary men, or of our men of

intellectual pursuits and occupations, are among our effective Volunteers. The Volunteer Force includes and mixes, as it ought, all ranks and classes and occupations. But all who know the history or the present state of our Volunteering, know that no class has looked so favourably on "the movement" from the first, or has personally connected itself so largely with it in proportion, as, in the wide sense of the term, the so-called intellectual class. We have never talked with any eminent man of letters that did not, if he were past service himself, regret the fact, and all but envy his juniors this new duty and new mode of recreation. And how many of our known men of lettersjournalists, writers in periodicals, writers of books, academic men-are actually serving in the Volunteer ranks, as officers or privates, along with their brethren from among the artists and the professional classes! artists and the professional classes! We could name names; but we won't. Yes, we will! We will name one that the whole country likes to hear named, and the literary associations of which with Volunteering are of so hearty a nature that it may by general vote be made an exception—that of Thomas Hughes, author of "Tom Brown," and the

founder, and now the major, of the numerous 19th Middlesex, or London Workingmen's College Corps. Let this name sug-gest others. Both from the adaptation of drill and rifle-shooting, as forms of amusement, to the wants of men of studious and sedentary habits, and from the more vivid perception which men of thought are likely to have of the national utility of a volunteer force, it has happened, as we have said, that, even beyond its proportion, this class of the community, all over the country, has sent its representatives into the volunteer regiments or companies locally most accessible. In Edinburgh, we believe, it is so; in London it is so pre-eminently. How many writers on the London press, more or less known, were in the fighting ranks on Brighton Downs last Monday! How many of them in that single corps of the "Devil's Own," which did so well, and the members of which, almost to a man, write books, or reviews, or articles-though they don't always like the attorneys to know, and often blush to find it fame! How many Saturday Reviewers in this single corps—characteristically posted, surely, on the side of the enemy!

Another connexion between Volunteering and Literature is, that Volunteering itself is begetting subjects and ideas for our current literature, and diffusing through it many particles of new language and metaphor, and an influential force of new modes of thinking. Every large new interest, as it rises, thus affects contemporary literature; and an exact historical study of our literature, no less than an exact historical study of our language, would reveal curious deposits of thought and matter, regularly stratified in the order of time, traceable to the great public interests that have successively arisen in Britain. As a colossal fact of the last three years, British Volunteering has made, and is still making, this intellectual record of itself. To some extent, this is accomplished, independently of Volunteers themselves, by the sheer frequency of Volunteering sights, of which all must take notice, and accounts of which must form part of that information about matters uppermost for the moment which newspapers must lay before their readers. Volunteering now comes within the scope of the satirist or the novelist of contemporary real life; and, if the Volunteer has not been represented in the hero of any novel, he figures among the incidental characters of comic tales of real life. We see the same thing in our contemporary art. Are not the Volunteers and Volunteering pet subjects at present for the caricatures in Punch? To a great extent, however, this effect, so far as it appears in literature, comes through the agency, conscious or unconscious, of those writers who are also Volunteers. What they are interested in, that they think about. Being Volunteers, they must think as Volunteers. Be it but their pastime, their Volunteering experience must supply them, whether they will or not, with something of the matter, in the shape of notion, reference, or images, out of which they weave the tissue of their writing; it must also affect their form or cast of thinking, their habit or way of intellect. There is no need, indeed, to exaggerate this intellectual influence of Volunteering in comparison with other recreations or occupations. But that it is considerable might be proved by instances. As much of the language of table-talk in many circles is now dashed by allusions derived from the rifle-ground, the manual and platoon exercises, the parade, the march-out, and the battalion drill; so a happy dash of more select and subtle ideas from the same sources may be discerned, by those who look for it, in much of our current writing. To ordinary mortals, for example, there is but one known form of stopping progress—that of simple halting. But the Volunteer knows better. You may stop progress by simple "halting ' -in which case you stand stock-still, arrest the entire current of intention or energy that made you move, and, as it were, empty your mind of it; or you may stop progress in quite another manner, by "marking time" i.e., still lifting your feet alternately to the

beat, but without gaining an inch of ground in which case you retain all the moving current within you and have not again to set it agoing. What a universal metaphor for human nature and human affairs there is in this distinction! A man who ceases to advance by "halting" may, in general, be managed; but there are men who, when they cease to advance, always "mark time," and these are the awful fellows! But one might go through the little Government Red-book, in which is packed the system of instruction for the soldier and the volunteer, and find in it other such instances, by the score, of phrases, ideas, distinctions, transferable into human life and so into literature. As Euclid, indeed, is a rhetorical as well as a logical training to all our educated youth, and as the Shorter Catechism has been a wondrous theological Euclid to the whole Scottish nation for nearly two hundred years, so no one can measure the amount or the stringency of education that may come from the

Red-book. More important than the particular intellectual effect of Volunteering just described, though in reality an extension of it, is a certain large effect which it has or may have in helping the thinker or writer to a real, and intimate grip of what, after all, is the true stuff of all literature—the past activity of man, and the career of the world and of human nature hitherto. The historian represents the past; the philosopher reasons from it; the poet derives from it the material for his imaginations. The more of reality there is in literature of any kind, the deeper and stronger and wider its hold on the past. And how much of the most obvious past of the world has consisted in war, war, war! "The history of the world," says the present Emperor of the French, "is the history of armies"-a saying too absolute, but which may be so interpreted as to express a truth. A recognition of war as a ceaseless agency, and result of other agencies, in the past history of the world; an inquisitiveness into this phenomenon, and a disposition to study it in all ways; nay, some correct intelligence of its modes, and of the kind of genius it requires and generates—are desirable, if not necessary, constituents of the intellectual outfit and working-power of the poet and the man of speculation as well as of the historian. An inkling of knowledge in this direction may suffice for general purposes; but how seldom this inkling has been possessed is proved by the unintelligible rubbish with which literature abounds in the shape of descriptions of battles and military operations. We know a literary man who candidly confessed that, after much study, he thought he understood a siege; but that, with all he could do, he had failed even to form to himself a presentable or probable notion of a battle. How Colonel McMurdo must laugh over some descriptions of battles by civilians that come in his way—descriptions that would not answer for a battle of cats, and that are and could be like no battle ever fought on, under, or above the earth! We rarely laughed so much ourselves (albeit we had no title to laugh in such a case) as over Goldsmith's description of the battle of Agincourt—which is about the most magnificent specimen of one fellow doing everything, and thousands of others doing nothing but tumble over, that we know of. Even Goldsmith's genius could not perform the feat of evolving the fundamental idea of a battle from the depths of his moral consciousness. But some civilian writers, with the due inkling of knowledge, have succeeded in grasping the real notion of war as an art, and as a historical agency. Gibbon professed that he had been greatly assisted in the apprehension of events for his "Decline and Fall" by some little service he had once had as a county militiaman. Scott, while an Edinburgh lawyer, was an enthusiastic volunteer-lieutenant-so enthusiastic that, when engaged in sword-practice against a stuffed dummy, in the guise of a Frenchman, set up to strike at, he was not content with quiet fencing, like the rest, but used to slash; and gnash his teeth, and swear horribly at

the supposed villain he was cutting; and something of the accuracy of martial detail which he mingles with the martial ardour of his writings may have come from this small training. We are mistaken also if, since Volunteering began again amongst us, there has not been more of endeavour after literary accuracy in military matters.

As Volunteering has assisted or may assist literary men in the direct apprehension of past events for the purposes of their own writing, so it may assist them in the critical interpretation and the correct enjoyment of those masterpieces of all former literature, the authors of which had, in their day, similarly qualified themselves for their work. There was a time when military service and field exercise were not so dissociated from book-work and the craft of letters as they have been during the last two or three pale generations. There was then more of military knowledge, of camp and army circumstance, inwrought naturally and easily into even the popular literature produced, than recently amongst us. Without going back among the Greeks and Latins, and without ranging amongst foreign modern literatures, what wealth of military images, descriptions, and even occasional dissertations, lies in the text of our classics. For the correct criticism, or even for the full intelligence of portions of the texts of our great writers, it is necessary, more frequently than might be supposed, to have that sort of inkling of military practice and phraseology which a little Volunteering would give. Did Chaucer, think you-Chaucer, the soldier and statesman, with his fresh open-air visage, and beard of the colour of ripe wheat—did Chaucer foist into his poetry mere book-worm imaginations of tournaments and battles? And what of Spenser? May not Shakespeare himself have trailed a pike? In his universal vocabulary, at least, it is not likely that the parts relating to soldiers and soldiering are less from the life than the rest. Of one thing we are certain—that Milton's extensive knowledge of drill and military matters generally, and the large and exquisitely poetic use he has made of it in his "Paradise Lost" and elsewhere, have escaped all his commentators. There is plausible ground for thinking that Milton may have been personally, for a time, a Volunteer—that he may have served, for a time, as quartermasterlieutenant; or in some such rank, in one of the city-companies under Major-General Skippon, at the beginning of the Civil War. In some way or other, at all events-by extraordinarily close observation, if not by actual service-he had acquired a notion, which he retained after he was blind, of drill and manœuvres. The proof from "Paradise Lost" is overwhelming; but take only two passages, in which the military reference is far simpler than in many others. Here is the vast army of the fallen Angels formline for the first time on the great sulphur-plain in hell, after they have been roused from their torpor in the burning lake, and assembled in bands for review by Satan:-

Thus they,
Breathing united force, with fixed thought,
Moved on in silence, to soft pipes that charmed
Their painful steps o'er the burnt soil; and
now,

Advanced in view, they stand, a horrid front Of dreadful length and dazzling arms, in guise Of warriors old, with ordered spear and shield, Awaiting what command their mighty chief Had to impose.

Again, in the description of Satan, when taken prisoner in the garden, defying Gabriel and the angelie guard before whom he is brought, so that they prepare to attack him—

While thus he spake, the angelic squadron bright

Turned fiery red, sharpening in mooned horns Their phalanx, and began to hem him round With ported spears, as thick as when a field Of Ceres, ripe for harvest, waving bends Her bearded grove of cars which way the wind Sways them.

Lastly, there is this connexion between Volunteering and Literature, that, though mates now, they may, in one fell hour, become rivals and antagonists, and that Literature ought to feel this, with self-humiliation for the moment, but with a just reserve of exultation in the end, as becomes the consciousness of its permanent power, and its relation to all that is highest in humanity. Volunteering is now, in Britain, partly an amusement, partly a serious public duty in the cause of safety and peace. But a worse time may come sooner or later, it may come! Has not the whole world, for the last fourteen years, been reeling-in tumult-some extraordinary irritability acting on the nerves of nations, and breaking out, now here, now there, now in the Old World, and anon in the New, in wars civil or international? Does not the very last speculation of our physiologists—the Darwinian doctrine almost argue that the dreadful agency of death and massacre may still be expected to act in the evolution of what is to be from that which is? Shall Britain, girt by her ample surges, remain always the one unperturbed spot on the earth's surface? If not, and if the hour for her should come too, then - only glance across the Atlantic -Literature and all the interests of peace will go down, down. The passions of war, the genius of war, will be in the ascendant. Not the poet, not the historian, not the philosopher, but the man who could take 50,000 men out of Hyde Park, would then be the man needed. Literature ought to foresee this, and to yield more respect than it has been accustomed of late to yield to the profession and discipline and character of the soldier. But, again, if Volunteering teaches anything, it ought to mix this respect with alarm. Teaching something of what war is, it ought to teach how hideous a thing it ishow, to the last strain of honour, it is to be avoided, deprecated, detested, repelled. It is an ignorant libel on Volunteering to say that it will cultivate a war-spirit. Cultivate a war-spirit! Ask those who were present on that Brighton field-day. The most striking thing on that day, perhaps, was the vision one had of how a battle began. On the hill-range opposite you, where the enemy was, and while your brigades were taking ground, you saw a battery. From that battery, suddenly, with no warning, a flash, and a puff of smoke! You counted slowly "one, two, three . . . eight, nine;" and between "eight" and "nine," and not till then, you heard the report. The battery was about a mile and three-quarters off. That was the beginning of the sham-battle; but in the real battle you knew that, ere that report had been heard, the ball would have torn the turf on which you stood, or made its gash of blood and brains through one of the brigades. And so on, through all that followed, you realized a horror that might be under the sky -the battle-fever raging, the maddened air brown, men changed into demons, and the field strewn with the wounded and dead. And Schiller's lines might have occurred to you :-

Truly there exists

A higher than the warrior's excellence.
In war itself war is no ultimate purpose.
The vast and sudden deeds of violence,
Adventures wild and wonders of the moment,
These are not they, my son, that generate
The calm, the blissful, and the enduring
mighty!

Lo, there! the soldier, rapid architect,
Builds light town of canvas; and at once

Builds his light town of canvas; and at once The whole scene moves, and bustles momently With arms, and neighing steeds, and mirth, and quarrel;

The motley market fills; the roads, the streams

Are crowded with new freights; trade stirs and

hurries:
But, on some morrow morn, all suddenly
The tents drop down, the horde renews its
march;

Dreary and solitary as a churchyard, The meadow and down-trodden seed-plot lie, And the year's harvest is gone utterly.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

EDWARD THE FIRST.

Lectures on the History of England. By William Longman. Lecture Fourth, comprising the Reign of Edward the First (A.D. 1272 to A.D. 1307): delivered in an abridged form at Chorleywood, at Christmas, 1861. (Longman & Co.)

THERE are many reasons why Edward the I First, whose popular name of Longshanks has preserved for us the personal peculiarity that most struck his contemporaries, should be looked back upon as one of the most interesting of Norman-English sovereigns, and why his reign should have especial attractions for the student of English history. He was a man of powerful character, of strongly marked individuality. His life-whether in that period, before his coming to the throne, when he was the young warrior and Crusader, or in his later years, when he ruled as king, as well as marched and fought-was romantic, eventful, picturesque. He did his part in that problem of the conflicting mutual relations of the crown, the nobility, the clergy, and the commonalty, the gradual solution of which through a series of reigns it is the care of the modern historian to observe and trace; and his reign is, in this respect, important in English Constitutional History. But what chiefly distinguishes Edward's reign, and invests it with the kind of interest which forms "readableness" in a story, is that it was inspired and pervaded by one paramount idea. Edward's greatness has not to be investigated, proved, and put together bit by bit out of the multiplicity of his actions. These actions, after his coming to the throne at least, have an epic unity, which even the common memory can recollect, and which gives unusually good opportunity to the historian for the exercise of his art of continuous and impressive narration. Whatever else he was, he was the "conqueror of the Welsh," and the "hammer of the Scots." Whatever other notions and schemes he may have had in his mind, the notion and scheme of uniting the whole island of Great Britain under one rule by the subjugation to England of the two anti-English or non-English nationalities which had survived out of the past-and were indeed, like England itself, consolidations so far of prior elements—regulated his whole career as a king, and left him time for little else. All this—patent long ago, but now again remembered with fresh interest in these days of the historic resuscitation of everybody worth resuscitating, and also of speculative curiosity as to the political worth, past or present, of the doctrine of nationalities—has recalled antiquarian zeal to Edward the First. Mr. Longman's lecture is only one out of several recent publications soliciting attention afresh to the character and reign of this "greatest of the Plantagenets." Indeed, of late, Edward the First has been the resuscitated figure round which a good deal of national prejudice, English, Scottish, and Welsh, has gathered itself combatively.

What the Welsh have done, on their side, towards a literary representation of Edward the First, different from that likely to be supplied by English tradition alone, has, for obvious reasons, been of far less consequence than what has been done by the Scotch. Edward succeeded in his Welsh enterprise; Wales was subdued and parcelled out into English counties; and whatever detestation of the conqueror, and whatever fond recollections of the patriot Llewellyn may have survived among the Welsh, have survived mainly as part of that mass of transmitted Welsh legend, locked up in the uncouth music of the Welsh tongue, of which only recently have even the best English historians seen the necessity of taking some account. But with the Scotch it has been different. Broken, as it seemed, by Edward, they recovered from the breaking. They put themselves together again as a nation, not only separate as before from the English, but with a determination to remain separate, increased a thousand-fold by what happened.

For nearly four centuries they continued to have their separate history, many of the transactions of which were actual revenges against Edward's attempt, or, in other ways, assertions of anti-English feeling; and when, at last, by an agency more peaceful and beneficent than that which Edward had tried to exercise, the two nations were united, there was poured into the common literature of both all the peculiar torrent of legend and story which belonged to the smaller nation. In this, among other things, Edward was remembered only as the cruel foreign tyrant and usurper, while the Bruce, who had established the Scottish liberties, but, above all, the nobler Wallace, who had maintained them to the death when all others despaired, and had never sworn an oath to their contrary, were consecrated as heroes by all those affectionate circumstances of regard that could be recovered or invented by the heart of a people singularly enthusiastic in its own antiquities.

Ah! that folk that ever was free, And in freedom wont to be, Through their great mischaunce and folly Were treated then sae wickedly That their foes their judges were! What wretchedness may man have mair?

It was hardly to be expected that any popular Scottish writer should be able to reconcile this strain of old Barbour, and all his inherited Wallace-and-Bruce feeling, with due appreciation of Edward's intellectual and political greatness. To require this would have been to require the faculty of making a mental leap across the Tweed, so as to see things, for a time at least, from that southern and more general point of view from which Edward saw them, and from which he acted -a feat of mental elasticity by no means impossible, consistently with the truest fidelity to the patriotic cause, but not to be looked for from mere writers of popular history for home use. Accordingly, few Scottish writers have done justice to Edward the First, or to the great idea or policy which he represented-notwithstanding that this is absolutely necessary even towards fully bringing out the greatness, the virtue, and what we may call the providential utility for all Great Britain now, of that antagonism to him/which was represented in Wallace and Bruce. But what is much more curious is that the English, until now, have concerned themselves as little about doing him justice, and have been contented with a mere adaptation of the Scottish version of him.

The English, indeed, are less susceptible of collective enthusiasms than the Scotch, or than most other nations. Of their national heroes scarcely any are unanimously admired by them all. They are almost the only nation in the world, as Mr. Froude has pointed out, whose habitual state of sentiment with respect to their own past lies in a kind of contented conviction that every prominent and emphatic and stirring personage in their history, before the end of the seventeenth century, was either a blackguard or a compound of motives and qualities for the most part sinister. Partly from the operation of this happy frame of mind-but partly, perhaps, because the popular English instinct cannot take strongly and kindly to those old French-speaking kings—there has been no especial care in England, till of late, for the memory of Edward the First. Even his name of "Longshanks," which might have imparted a touch of human and English interest to him, did little for him. Englishmen were willing, so far as they thought of him at all, to accept the Scottish version of him as good for them too. Miss Porter's "Scottish Chiefs" served, with a very little modification or allowance, as well for English as for Scottish readers of historic romance. This was rather odd, but creditable at least to the large good humour of the English on such subjects. Of late, however, there has come a change. The English have been roused a little out of their previous state of indifference, or worse than indifference, to the story of their national past. They have begun, under the influence of powerful teaching and example, to seek out in that story old characters and reputa-

tions, of which, after the fashion of other nations, they might be proud, and, when necessary, to scour and whitewash these to the due degree of brightness. Hence the recent awakening of which we have spoken to the merits of Edward the First.

Unfortunately, along with this proper revival of national respect among the English for such characters in their national history as Edward, there has appeared in some quarters - chiefly among those who may be called the more pedantic and less philosophic antiquarians—a spirit of national prejudice more offensive than that against which it reacts, inasmuch as it is more cold-blooded and factitious, and is in the interest of the majority. In order fully to resuscitate, or, as the phrase is, "whitewash" for the English their heroic Edward the First, it has been thought necessary in one or two recent histories to "blackwash" his Scottish antagonists. Of Wallace, in particular, Englishmen have been called upon to think as a kind of Nana Sahib; and this on the faith of certain extracts from old English historians, which anybody might have read long ago. Where this does not proceed from mere peevishness of temper, provoked by over-nationality on the other side, it proceeds, we believe, from deficiency in the true historic genius, the true historic spirit. It is no more required by the factsas they may be interpreted by either a competent philosophy of human nature in general, or a true scientific view of the course of English and Scottish history—that an English historian nowadays shall think of Wallace as people think of Nana Sahib, than that a Scottish historian shall go on execrating Edward the First in the good old style as a mere monster of ambition and cruelty.

Mr. Longman, at least, does not err in the illiberal way of some recent writers. He has conceived a high opinion, on the whole, of the greatness of Edward's character, and of the importance of his reign. But, like Mr. Charles Knight, in his "History of England," he retains, while conveying this sentiment, a due degree of the proper historical feeling of sympathy with that which Edward sought to destroy, and with those who opposed him. His tract may be recommended to those who want to have, in brief compass, a general, and yet sufficiently distinct and careful view, of Edward and his career. He begins with a sketch of Edward personally at the commencement of his reign; then he accumulates a number of curious particulars as to the household habits and the social condition of the English in Edward's days; after which he proceeds, in a plain, broad, perspicuous way, which must have suited well the audience originally addressed, to narrate Edward's successive wars, and to give an idea of the nature of his legislation. He cites at the end the authorities on which his narrative is based; woodcuts illustrate the text; and there is prefixed an interesting coloured map of Wales, showing its ancient divisions prior to its conquest.

MR. JEAFFRESON'S "LIVE IT DOWN." Live it Down. By J. C. Jeaffreson. (Hurst and Blackett.)

WHEN there is a first volume to a story we cannot but think it desirable that the story should begin in the first volume. Mr. Jeaffreson seems to be of a different mind. He really has a story to tell, but he thinks one volume out of three quite space enough to give to it. The whole of the first volume, and the greater part of the second, are made up of a variety of particulars, some relating to characters in the novel, others having to do rather with their parents and more remote ancestry. Mr. Jeaffreson has tried to combine the novel of character and the novel of incident; and his plan is to give us a little of both-first one and then the other. There is something to be said for it, no doubt. It is the simplest expedient possible for pleasing two different classes of readers. To people with a taste for the quiet and domestic line of fiction we can

conscientiously recommend the first volume. There is a love affair, begun in the second chapter and brought to a happy conclusion in the last. There are two balls, to each of which a whole chapter is devoted. At the latter of them the heroine's dress is described with great minuteness; but an air of novelty is imparted to the passage by its being thrown into the form of a conversation between the hero and the chaperon:-

"She'll wear," began Mrs. Magnum, "a round dress of white net over white satin, with a broad flounce, set on rather scanty, of Urling's patent lace, and over the flounce there'll be two rows of net bouilloné let in and divided, and terminated by

rouleaux of pink satin."

"Charming!" said Edgar, lifting his hands full six inches in his enthusiasm, "charming! I see it exactly. Only two rows of net bouilloné—to be sure! it would be a thousand pities to have more. And the rouleaux of satin are pink-excellent.'

"The sleeves, of course, will be short," continued Fanny, "and made of net and Urling's lace, with strap ornaments of pink satin. The belt is to be fastened in front under a double rosette of pink satin."

"Excellent!" cried the hypocrite; "admirable taste! Pink will suit her to perfection! But how,

my dear Mrs. Magnum, about the body?"

"White satin," returned the lady, "trimmed with quillings of narrow blonde. By the way, too, she is to have a bouquet of pink flowers over the left shoulder."

"Good; but how about her hair?" inquired

Edgar, in a more natural tone.

"Light, elegant ringlets - short ringlets, of course — arranged with my simple brooches of large pearls which I lend her for the evening."

"Are her gloves plain, or ornamented at the

top?" inquired the hypocrite.

Ornamented, of course; and so are her white kid shoes ornamented, and you'll see them as she waltzes to-night, for her skirt is made short, so that the whole of the foot is visible."

We only hope that this description is authentic-that Mr. Jeaffreson has copied, or at least adapted it from some fashion-book of the year 1820, and not drawn wholly upon his imagination for the details. But graver tastes are not left uncared for. The fact that the hero-the Edgar of the preceding conversation—has a grandfather, is made the peg on which to hang a good deal of history and other improving matter. Six and twenty pages are devoted to a sketch of this venerable gentleman's life; but, as his own part in the drama only embraces the ordinary events of birth and marriage, going to Cambridge and living in London, it is obvious that something must be done to fill up the abovementioned space. The receipt is very simple. State that in such a year or series of years Antony Turrett was in the nursery, or at school, or making love; then find out from the History of England what other people were doing at the same time, and put down as much of it as suits you. For example:-

And what is going on in the outer world, whilst Antony Turrett is growing up from boyhood to manly beard and dignity? Sir Hans Sloane is dying. Under the composer's direction, Mr. Handel's "Messiah" is performed at the Foundling Hospital, for the benefit of that charity. Dr. Cameron is undergoing execution. George the Second's Marriage Act is rousing indignation among the clerical debtors of the Fleet Prison. . . . The trustees of the British Museum are meeting, for the first time, in the Cock-pit. . Pelham, the Premier, dies without due warning. Fonthill Abbey is almost entirely destroyed by fire. . . . The oldest lion in the Tower breathes his last breath. Dr. Shebbeare is undergoing prosecution for his "Sixth Letter to the People of England." Handel dies. Eugene Aram is undergoing execution. General Wolfe expires in the arms of victory. Smeaton is finishing the Eddard Line Line and State and is finishing the Eddystone Lighthouse. William Warburton is advanced to the See of Gloucester.

And so on for some four pages. We have not the work at hand to refer to, but we strongly suspect that for this portion of his story Mr. Jeaffreson is indebted to the "Table of Remarkable Occurrences" in Magnall's Questions.

This first volume, also, contains a joke. It occurs in the opening chapter, and is to the following purport:—John Bromhead, general merchant, and father of the heroine,

is conversing with his wife, when he is suddenly interrupted by her exclaiming—"The first chapter of Hosea!" to which he immediately answers—"All right—text found." This interruption and rejoinder are repeated a few pages further on. At first sight this witticism struck us as obscure; indeed, had we not accidentally turned back to the title of the chapter we should probably have been still in doubt as to its meaning. On doing this, however, the mystery was at once dispelled. The title of the chapter is "Who's here?" The resemblance in sound between this expression and the name of the propheti-eal book is apparent almost at once. If, aided by this clue, the reader turns to the passages in which the reference is made, he will see that, each time, Mr. Bromhead is saying something, which his wife does not wish overheard, just as the maid is coming into the room, and she takes this scriptural method of drawing his attention to the fact. It does not strike us as very funny; but we dare say Mr. Bromhead saw it to more advantage. It looks like a joke that would improve upon acquaintance.

It is only fair to say, however, that there is better stuff than this, even in the first volume. Mr. Jeaffreson seems to be able to conceive a character, but too careless to work it out. John Bromhead supplies us with an instance. He is a shrewd, kindhearted merchant, who in early life became an enthusiastic dissenter, owing to a disappointment in love. After a time his feelings cool down, and he finds he has no sympathy with his co-religionists. But he has married a woman whom he has persuaded to follow him into dissent, while he has committed himself in the eyes of his neighbours to a particular set of opinions; and he has not courage enough to admit that he has again changed his views, but keeps up an ex-ternal and political connexion with the "persuasion," though he has long ceased to care for their peculiar opinions. But his wife remains a zealous member of the sect to which her husband had converted her, and her great sorrow is that her husband is worldly, and that he is bringing up their daughter to be worldly too. There is material here for a good deal of character-painting; and in some hands the sketch both of husband and wife, thus begun, would have been worked up into a finished picture. But Mr. Jeaffreson just starts the idea and leaves his readers to hunt it down for themselves. He is quite content with his performance when he has provided a character with something to be "lived down." Its function in the story is discharged as soon as it has given him an opportunity to bring in this continually repeated tag. Everybody in the book has lived, is living, or will have to live down something. Sometimes it is a love affair, sometimes a secret, sometimes a disappointment, sometimes a crime—but it is always treated in the same way. "The says the author, in the moral of the story, last chapter of the third volume, "has been set forth on every page." That it certainly has. "And yet (the teller hopes) it has not been disagreeably thrust upon the reader." Well, the less said about that the better!

The story, when we get to it, is of the sensation type, but not worked out with the elaborateness of detail which is the usual characteristic of the school. There is a secret, a murder, a returned convict, a low sportingman, who trades on his knowledge of the secret-in short, all the usual apparatus. The plot is a little obscure; and, partly for this reason, and partly because, if any one intends to read the book, there is no need to lessen his pleasure in doing so, we shall not attempt to give an outline of it. The best thing in the story, perhaps, is the chapter which claims, we daresay justly, to narrate "a scene never before described by historian"-to wit, the deliberations of a jury. The hero is on his trial for murder. He is innocent, of course; but the evidence against him is quite overwhelming, and both judge and counsel are greatly sur-prised at the jury thinking it needful

However, John Braddock, the to retire. man who has really committed the murder, is on the jury, and he is determined to bring them round to a verdict of "not guilty." Mr. Hedgestake is invited to preside over their deliberations, in consequence of the influence he has gained by shaking his head and taking notes during the trial; and, his sentiments being that "the sooner we go to business the better-and the sooner we get home to muffins and cold meat the betterand the sooner we do our duty to the public the better," he proceeds at once to take the votes. There are eleven for "guilty." John Braddock then proposes a little "calm discussion," on the ground that he must think of his oath.

"Think of your oath," exclaimed Mr. Atterbury, shaking his fist over the table at John Braddock's face, and turning purple with rage. "Think of eleven gentlemen who want their suppers. That's much more to the purpose. You're a dissentient, sir, mark my words—you're a dissentient! And, mark this, if we both leave this room alive, your name in this city shall be Mr. One-to-eleven, or my name isn't Charles Atterbury."

Mr. Frogmore, however, a conscientious grocer, proposes they shall hear what Mr. Braddock has to say; and, in spite of the opposition of Mr. Amos Clarke, "an agriculturist of the old school," who is "wholly against hearing Mr. Braddock's views, on the ground that his "mind is easy," and he "don't want to have it worritted," the motion, being seconded by another juryman, who believes himself endowed with great capability for conducting public affairs, is carried. The statement of views and a three hours' discussion which followed brought over the scrupulous Frogmore to the side of not guilty; which so enraged Mr. Atterbury that he cast reflections on Mr. Frogmore's business, thereby driving two other grocers into the minority. Then a friend of Frogmore's followed. The numbers remained five to seven till past midnight; during which space Mr. Amos Clarke distributed a "little sample of wheat" he happened to have in his pocket—there being about forty grains to each man. Braddock, however, declined to accept them. The power of enduring hunger thus evinced made so great an impression on Mr. Jowler, "a juror of nervous organization, who steadily ate peppermints throughout the entire course of the investigation," that he resolved to take a shilling out of his pocket and look at it under the table. If he saw a head lying upwards, he would go over to the "not guilty" side. Unfortunately, the shilling proved to be old and smooth, and no head was visible. Again Mr. Jowler made the trial, taking care this time to feel for a new one, and this time his perseverance was rewarded—

Whereupon Mr. Jowler rose and said, "Mr. Hedgestake and gentlemen,—I can't resist the voice of reason any longer. I am a 'not guilty'

At this crisis Mr. Braddock took a loaf and butter from his pocket, and proceeded to cut it into eleven slices, one of them much larger than the rest. This he gave to Mr. Clarke, and then passed round the rest. He himself was "not at all hungry." In his youth, he said, he had been in Canada, where he had had practice in the way of long fasts.

"But how long can you go without food?" asked Mr. Jowler. "What an organization you must have!

"Well, sir," replied the bookseller, quietly, "I can stand ten days" fasting without inconvenience. But a fortnight passed entirely without food would well-nigh do for me."

"I should hope so," groaned three of the guilty' men.

The largest slice won the agriculturist of the old school to Braddock's side. Mr. Hedgestake followed. Then a suggestion, that by Scotch law "where there's a majority in favour of a prisoner he's let off," brought over two more-one of them giving as his reason that his sister married a Scotchman, and he made it "a rule to stick up for Scotland." Mr. Atterbury and Mr. Clitheroe held out for another hour. Then a judiciously administered suggestion that the latter was on the point of giving in, and that the last man would certainly be called "Mr. One-to-Eleven," proved too much for Mr. Atterbury. He avowed himself in favour of "not guilty," and Mr. Clitheroe followed.

We think Mr. Jeaffreson might do better

than he has yet done. "Live it Down" is moderately readable all through, and parts of it deserve higher praise. But character and incident are difficult elements to combine in one story, and we advise him for the future to devote himself to one or other of them. Which of the two he had better select depends mainly on the amount of thought and labour he is willing to give to his task.

PROFESSOR CONINGTON'S TRANSLA-TION OF HORACE.

The Odes and Carmen Sæculare of Horace. Translated into English Verse. By John Conington, M.A., Corpus Professor of Latin in the University of Oxford. (Bell and Daldy.)

NO one would dream of comparing Horace with Homer or Shakespeare. But, as the world has up to this time produced but one specimen of each of these grander types, so with equal truth it may be said that there is but one Horace, who, in his own peculiar compartment of the field of lyric poetry, must now remain for ever without a rival. Even were he a less perfect lyrist than he is, the season for rivalry is long over and gone; and only by good translation can we now hope to make the world familiar with a style of verse so unique, whose sweetness, moreover, if once tasted, can never be forgotten. But the difficulties of such translation are extreme. To be at once smooth and forcible, easy and elaborate, simple and refined, and all this precisely after the example of Horace-in the process, that is, of imitating the almost inimitable—is a task in which to have escaped palpable defeat is surely an egregious triumph.

We have now before us the most recent attempt in this direction—a version of the Odes by the Oxford Professor of Latin. Mr. Conington has prefixed to his labours an exposition of his own principles and practice, in the hope, expressed with all the modesty of true scholarship, that his book may serve as a landmark to future voyagers on the same quest. Such, however, we are very sure, will never surpass him, unless they in some degree vary the track. Mr. Conington has all but exhausted the success attainable on his own plan. His skill in surmounting or evading difficulties is really admirable. Nevertheless it may be that he has failed to inculcate an adequate devotion to the one central influence, without which other principles, however good and true in their degree, are often liable even to mislead and warp the translator. Our charge against him is not that his system is false, but that it is incomplete, and that the part omitted is the most important of the whole.

The one supreme quality requisite in a translator of verse is, we maintain, a deep poetic sympathy with the author he is translating. It is not enough that he should dis-cern with the eye, and record with the pen of a scholar, all those external characteristics which separate the style of one poet from that of another; but he must, for the time being, strive to feel with the same heart as the original composer. Not that the surface peculiarities are to be slighted or set at nought. On the contrary, they are to be diligently observed. But the translator should work outward to these from the moral and intellectual centre of the poetry, not vice versa; and he should apply the knowledge of them to test his method of transla-tion, not to form it. The tendency, however, of Prof. Conington's remarks is to substitute a clear-sighted ingenuity for true feeling and passion. His statements seem to imply that the whole problem is to be solved by a rigid analysis of style and metre, rather than by a general oneness of view with the poet. No doubt his object has been to avoid anything like transcendentalism; he has aimed at

practical usefulness rather than ideal truth. But this consideration points directly to what we conceive to be a serious and prevalent error-an error which, endorsed with authority so high, is not likely to prove inert. "No one," says Mr. Conington, "can be more convinced than I am that a really successful translator must be himself an original poet. Yet the time appears to be gone by when men of great original gifts could find satisfaction in reproducing the thoughts and words of others; and the work, if done at all, must now be done by writers of inferior pretension." Now, is it true that an original (i.e., a really inventive) poet is, à priori, likely to prove the best translator? We think not. The poetic sympathy, not with what actually exists, but with what has been represented in a certain definable manner as existing by some other mind, is a faculty more often to be found in the large class of reproductive, than in the small one of creative, thinkers. It is the special compensating endowment of unoriginal poetic talent. Wordsworth and Keats could never sympathize with Pope; but how many at the present day can not only understand, but feel, and perhaps even imitate with some success, the poetry of all three! While there is confessedly a lull in the succession of original poets, the felt appreciation of real genius was never more profound and enlightened than now. Partly from a natural movement of the human mind, and appreciably, so far as educated Englishmen are concerned, from the catholic influences of Shakespearian study, we are able to acknowledge and to feel excellence of all kinds, however varied in its manifestations, in a far deeper degree than was ever before the case in our literary history. The presence of this sympathetic faculty, this secondary poetic imagination as it were, joined with an average power of expression and the requisite accuracy of scholarship (two things attainable in a sufficient measure by most educated men), ought in fact to produce the very best translators. To present the substance and spirit of the ancient poets with greater success than has ever yet been attained is, we firmly believe, a work lying full in the path of our own generation. And, thinking this, we regret that Professor Conington has stamped with the sanction of his name any method of treatment but the very highestnamely, the fusing our own mind, so far as is possible, into that of the author with whom we are dealing. The fact that original poets will not now translate need scarcely make success more relative than before, nor does it in the least alter the one condition of it. We regret that we have not space to point

out how far Mr. Conington's theory has affected his practice—how, for instance, in the choice of metre, it invariably leads him to regard analogies apparent rather to the eye than to the ear, and in general to cage up the imagination rather than to allow it free scope. But still more do we regret that we have not space to notice the many beauties, which, in spite of all that we consider imperfect in his conception of the problem, cannot but perpetually attract the scholar, and must occasionally win their way even to the heart of the unlearned. But the latter will not catch the whole charm of Mr. Conington's skill. The translation is, of course, full of such merit as belongs to the exquisite formation of single parallelisms. This excellence is, indeed, often sustained for a considerable time. But, to understand the beauty of parallels, one must be able to see both lines; and we can seldom forget that Mr. Conington trusts, for the general effect, to an accurate piecing together of individual resemblances which the uninitiated reader can never be expected to penetrate. He is often, however, on the verge of absolute success: now and then he fairly passes the border and plants his foot for a moment on the enchanted land. Can anything be better than the following stanza?-

That morn of meadow-flowers she thought
Weaving a crown the nymphs to please;
That gloomy night she looked on nought
But stars and seas.

We will conclude with four lines (quoted according to the revision found in a note) which will bear, as we think, the highest test that can possibly be applied to them. They occur in the address to Bacchus, at the end of the eighteenth ode of the first book. We may wish perhaps that the personification had not stopped short of substituting "her" for "its;" but, with this trivial exception, the impressive dramatic character of the original is fully kept up.

Silence thou thy savage cymbals, and the Berecynthine horn; In their train Self-love still follows, dully,

desperately blind, And Vain-glory, towering upwards in its empty-

headed scorn,

And the Faith that keeps no secrets, with a
window in its mind.

P. S. W.

FOWNES'S CHEMISTRY RE-EDITED.

A Manual of Elementary Chemistry: Theoretical and Practical. By George Fownes, F.R.S., Late Professor of Practical Chemistry in University College, London. Ninth Edition. Revised and Corrected. (Churchill.)

R. H. BENCE JONES and Professor Hofmann, who have edited no less than seven editions of this manual since the lamented death of Professor Fownes in 1849, have by this labour influenced in no slight degree the progress of the science of chemistry in England during the past fourteen years. The task of continuing and adding to another man's work, in the present rapidly advancing state of the science of chemistry, is no easy or enviable one; but the editors, whilst adhering to the original plan proposed by Fownes seventeen years ago, have succeeded in introducing the numerous important changes which many branches of the subject have since that time undergone, without interfering in any way with the individuality or the systematic character of the

We are not acquainted with any manual of chemistry, either in our own or in the German or French language, which can be more properly placed in the hands of a person commencing the study of the science than this. The language is clear, and the descriptions concise and exact, whilst the whole spirit of the book is truly philosophical. The range of subjects embraced in the 820 closelyprinted octavo pages is most wide. It includes, in the first place, the elements of those branches of physics which form an indispensable introduction to chemistry itself-such as the physical constitution of gases, the chief phenomena of heat, light, and electricity; secondly, the chemistry of the elementary bodies, and of the simpler or inorganic compounds formed by their union; thirdly, organic chemistry, or the chemistry of the carbon compounds; and, fourthly, animal

chemistry. In the physical section we find a clear exposition of the main facts of heat, as that affection of matter influences chemical action, with valuable references to the standard quantitative researches of Regnault, Faraday, and others, and including a short description of the recent remarkable investigations of Tyndall on the absorptive and radiative power of gases and vapours for heat. We must confess, however, to disappointment on observing the very slight notice taken of the mechanical theory of heat-which, when considered in all its bearings, is certainly the most important scientific generalization of the age-and on finding that the following sentence, occurring in the earliest editions, has not yet been remodelled. In alluding to the celebrated experiment of Sir Humphrey Davy, of melting two pieces of ice by friction, it is stated, in page 60, that " the origin of the heat in these cases is by no means intelligible, although, from the interesting investigations of Jouleon the mechanical equivalent of heat, we know that the quantity of heat evolved by rubbing is proportioned to the amount of mechanical work done." Surely the labours of Joule, Thomson, Clausius, Mayer, and others have

rendered the origin of heat in these cases intelligible to the scientific reader, whilst the more popular works of Tyndall upon "Heat as a mode of motion," and of Grove upon the "Correlation of the Physical Forces," have brought the grand principles upon which nature effects these changes within the comprehension of all. A short and concise statement of the principles of the mechanical theory of heat would greatly enhance the scientific value of the manual.

Under the head of "Light," a short description of the recent spectrum discoveries is found. The description of the instrument used by Bunsen and Kirchhoff in their celebrated investigations is clear and elegant; we wish the same could be said for the woodcut which represents their spectroscope. As a rule, our English books on physical science are illustrated by woodcuts which will not bear comparison, either in accuracy of detail or in general artistic finish, with the illustra-tions of similar books published by celebrated houses-such as Victor Masson and Viewegin France and Germany. The English wood-cuts are, generally, either bad copies of foreign originals, or rough sketches which may serve to illustrate the principle, but certainly do not represent the actual instrument or apparatus in use. As an honourable exception in this respect to most English scientific works stands Dr. Percy's "Metallurgy," in which all the illustrations are original, carefully drawn to scale. The importance of the proper illustration of handbooks and manuals of physical science is daily becoming greater, as each day brings forth new apparatus; and, in our opinion, a new edition of a standard educational work should represent not only the changes which the principles and practice of the science have undergone, but likewise the changes in apparatus and instruments by which to a great extent the advance has been made. We fear that, if we judge our English manuals of chemistry by this standard, we shall find most of them sadly wanting.

The foundation of the science of Solar and Stellar Chemistry by Kirchhoff is thus ex-

plained (p. 70):-

By a series of theoretical considerations, Professor Kirchhoff has arrived at the conclusion that the spectrum of an incandescent gas is reversed-i.e., that the bright lines become dark lines, if there be behind the incandescent gas a very luminous source of light, which by itself furnishes a continuous spec-trum. Kirchhoff and Bunsen have fully confirmed this conclusion by experiment. Thus, a volatile lithium salt produces, as has just been pointed out, a very distinct bright line in the red portion of the spectrum; but, if bright sunlight, or the light emit-ted by a solid body heated to the utmost extent by incandescence, be allowed to fall through the flame upon the prism, the spectrum exhibits, in place of this bright line, a black line similar in every respect to Fraunhofer's lines in the solar spectrum. In like manner the bright strontium line is reversed into a dark line. Kirchhoff and Bunsen have expressed the opinion that all the Fraunhofer lines in the solar spectrum are bright lines thus reversed. In their conception, the sun is surrounded by a luminous atmosphere, containing a certain number of volatilized substances, which would give rise to the generation in the spectrum of certain bright lines, if the light of the solar atmosphere alone could reach the prism; but the intense light of the powerfully incandescent body of the sun, which passes through the solar atmosphere, causes these bright lines to be reversed, and to appear as dark lines on the ordinary solar spectrum. The two philosophers mentioned have thus been enabled to attempt the investigation of the chemical constituents of the solar atmosphere, by ascertaining the elements which, in a state of incandescent vapour, develop bright spec-tral lines, coinciding with Fraunhofer's lines in the solar spectrum. Fraunhofer's line D coincides most accurately with the bright spectral line of sodium, and may be artificially produced by reversing the latter; sodium would thus appear to be a constituent of the solar atmosphere. Kirchhoff has proved, moreover, that sixty bright lines perceptible in the spectrum of iron correspond, both as to position and distinction, most exactly to the same number of dark lines in the solar spectrum; and, accordingly, he believes iron, in the state of vapour, to be present in the solar atmosphere. In a similar manner this physicist has endeavoured to establish the presence of several other elements in the solar atmosphere.

In pages 136-138 we find a valuable abstract of the very interesting and striking results lately obtained on the diffusion of liquids by Mr. Graham, who, to his honour

be it said, does not allow his arduous official duties as Master of the Mint to interfere with the successful prosecution of one of the most abstruse subjects of physical science. The distinction which Graham draws between colloid and crystalline bodies—viz., those possessing respectively low and high diffusive powers—is one of the highest importance, and has opened out an entirely new field for investigation; and these researches promise, in their future developments, to throw light on many hitherto obscure phenomena, not only of chemistry, but of geology and physiology. In the part devoted to inorganic chemistry

In the part devoted to inorganic chemistry we observe that the more important of newer discoveries are shortly and accurately described. Thus, we notice the description of that beautiful application of the principle of latent heat to the production of cold—the ice-making machine of M. Carré, in which ice is made by burning coals, and which attracted such attention in the International Exhibition last summer. Amongst the sections concerning metals we notice nothing calling for special remark, except the introduction amongst their better known colleagues of Bunsen's new alkalies, Cæsia and Rubidia, and of the new and peculiar metal Thallium, discovered by Mr. Crookes in 1861.

It is in the organic department of the science that the mighty change which has occurred in chemistry since Fownes's death becomes evident on comparing the early and recent editions of the "Manual." This part, indeed, has been entirely re-written by the editors; who as yet adhere to the Natural History classification, necessarily given to the subject by Fownes in 1849—although, from the preface, it appears they allow that such an arrangement is one of sufferance only, and they show their appreciation of a more scientific method by devoting an appendix of fifty pages to the explanation and elucidation of those modern views concerning the constitution of organic compounds which were first propounded by Gerhardt in 1848, in his celebrated "Introduction à l'Étude de la Chimie par le Système Unitaire," and have since been adopted and extended by many English and foreign chemists. The student, in glancing through the chapter on "Organic Bases of Artificial Origin," extending over twenty pages, cannot fail to be struck with the enormous progress made in our knowledge in this branch since Furfurine was discovered by Fownes; and he will, doubtless, desire to know to whose labours he is indebted for the most interesting and important information which these curious and complicated compounds yield. Yet he will not find any reference to name or memoir concerning the great majority; and he may be astonished to learn that, with very few exceptions, all these families of bodies have been discovered, and their properties and constitution determined, by the activity and perseverance of one man, whose delicacy has induced him, in his capacity of editor, not to mention his own name, even when detailing the history of a class of bodies of his own creation. The chemical relations of the new aniline colours are also fully discussed; and here, too, we find Professor Hofmann giving all the credit of the discovery of the colourless base of which the well-known colour Magenta is the acetate, to Mr. Nicholson, and not stating that he himself was in any way connected with the investigation.

The portion devoted to "Animal Chemistry" brings this most complicated subject up to the knowledge of the present day, and contains, amongst others, an excellent article from the pen of Dr. Bence Jones on an important secretion, to the chemistry of which he has devoted many valuable investigations. Under the head of "Chemical Functions in Animals" we find an abstract of the recent important researches of Pettenkofer, of Munich, on respiration (p. 734):—

The apparatus was large enough to allow a man to breathe and move as in an ordinary dwelling-room for twenty-four hours at least. The air could be changed to the extent of from fifteen to seventy-five cubic metres an hour; the chemical difference between the air that went in and that which came out was determined. The King of Bavaria gave out £600 for the construction of the apparatus; and it acted so well that the quantity of carbon and hydrogen in a stearine candle, burnt in the apparatus, could be determined as accurately by the quantity of carbonic acid and water produced as by an organic analysis. A dog and a man were experimented on. In the dog the amount of carbonic acid exposed was least after ten days of hunger; when a full diet of flesh and fat was taken, three times as much carbonic acid was produced. The urea was increased twenty-two times as much as during starvation. In man not quite one-third more carbonic acid was produced when full diet was taken than was found during starvation. From the amount of carbonic acid and urea formed when animal food alone was taken, it appears that some fatty matter must be produced and retained in the system. Starch and sugar do not appear to cause a deposit of fat directly, though they may do so indirectly. Careful determination of the amount and composition of the food and oxygen consumed led to the belief that hydrogen and light carburetted hydrogen, C₂. H₄, were given off in respiration. This is fully confirmed by these experiments. It follows from this important fact—first, that the carbonic acid produced cannot be looked on as the measure of the amount of oxygen taken from the air; and, secondly, that hydrogen cannot be assumed to be first oxydized in the body.

These important facts clearly show that the simple theory of animal nutrition, proposed some years ago by Liebig, by no means represents the true condition of things.

In conclusion, we may repeat our advice to every young student of chemistry to master the deep store of knowledge which this most excellent manual contains.

THE ANGEL IN THE HOUSE.

The Angel in the House. By Coventry Patmore. (Macmillan & Co.)

HERE is an anecdote of an honest Irishman whose mingled sense of the duty of gratitude and the awkwardness of obligation found vent in the characteristic aspiration - "O that I could see your honour knocked down in a fight! Sure and wouldn't I bring a faction to the rescue!" Like the worthy Hibernian, we could almost wish to see the author of this delightful poem once more in jeopardy from the critics, modestly figuring to ourselves that we might, in such a contingency, possibly render the republic of letters some slight service. We may not entirely approve the method of our friend Mr. Borrow, who intimates that, when a critic annoys him, he merely "holds the offender up by the tail, the blood and foam streaming from his broken jaws!"-since which announcement, by the way, we have thought it well to give the author of "Lavengro" a wide berth. But, seriously—greatly preferring, as we do, the positive pole of criticism to the negative, and holding it a thousand times better to help one true writer to recognition than to anticipate natural death by summary execution in the case of twice two hundred pretenders-we could almost prevail upon ourselves to quarrel with Mr. Patmore for having won his position proprio Marte, and left nothing for us but t he task of chronicling his success. After a long and almost painful process of printing and re-printing, casting and re-casting, polishing, erasing, and dis-locating, addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, the various components of the "Angel in the House," accompanied by a kite-tail of minor pieces, have ultimately assembled in two handsome volumes, indubitably destined to occupy an honourable place among British classics, and to reach posterity as terse and vivid expositors of some of the finest thought and deepest feeling of our age.

This is not the opportunity, nor are ours the limits, to enter upon any detailed examination of verse already so widely known, and, in general, so weighty with meaning, so provocative of emotion and reflection. If asked, however, for some justification of our praise, we would direct attention in particular to the brightness, freshness and cheerfulness of the first half of the first volume, as contrasted with the repressed intensity of emotion depicted in the first book of the second. Each representation is equally masterly; yet they respectively sound the extremest notes of the scale of passion, and

the qualifications demanded for the treatment of each are of a totally different character. To borrow an illustration from the motto of "Tamerton Church Tower," these are respectively as Beauty and Bands, the two staves which Zechariah took unto him when he fed the flock. The first poem is a morning land-scape, which we are somehow obliged to associate with birds—not, as Mr. Patmore elsewhere has it, singing in the lonely recesses of a wood songs

Fit for their only listener, heaven-

but only the most audible participants in the general concert of all nature, animate and inanimate. In the opening cantos of "Faithful for Ever," on the other hand, we encounter severe introspection, perplexed meditation, subtle casuistic balancings and counterbalancings, the suppressed passion that clenches the hands and tightens the veins, a sense of pending issues of good or ill that contracts the horizon, and shuts out all thought of enjoyment from its darkened circuit. This certainly denotes uncommon versatility of power. Equally admirable is the variety, no less than the beauty, of the charming little landscapes that sparkle up and down these volumes:—

The clouds, the intermediate blue,
The air that rings with larks, the grave
And distant rumour of the wave,
The solitary sailing skiff,
The gusty corn-field on the cliff,
The corn-flower by the crumbling ledge,
Or, far down at the shingle's edge,
The sighing sea's recurrent crest,
Breaking, resigned to its unrest.

This is, indeed, to speak to the eye; nor would it be easy to find a better example of the definition of a good style—the employment of proper words in proper places. Another rare merit, which must strike the most cursory reader, is the frequent (we cannot say invariable) pithiness of thought and condensation of diction, especially when the poet enunciates some precious aphorism like this:—

Kind souls, you wonder why, love you,
When you, you wonder why, love none.
We love, sir, for the good we do,
Not that which unto us is done.

Or when he indulges us with one of his singularly terse and original similes, as "In joy's cap danced the feather jest," or

Eastward grew
In heaven the symbol of my mood,
Where one bright star engrossed the blue.

A cordial appreciation of Mr. Patmore's merits renders it doubly our duty to say a word touching his faults. As with all good writers, these are closely allied to his most characteristic excellences: the sunny side of the fruit is the most exposed to damage and decay. His intense sensitiveness to the beauty of homely things leads him to make a household god of any triviality. He seems incapable of discriminating between the limpid waters of domestic life and the sticks and straws they gather as they flow. We note with pleasure that the alterations in this edition nearly all tend towards greater dignity and refinement; and much of which we must still disapprove may be explained by the obvious fact that the poem was conceived under strong pre-Raphaelite influences, and may therefore be expected to participate in the mellowing process to which that salutary but crude protest against conventionalism is gradually becoming subjected. A kindred but more pardonable fault is the introduction of theological and metaphysical themes, with which poetry has no business, and for the treatment of which Mr. Patmore possesses no peculiar qualifications. As an exponent of ethical truth, he is weighty, straightforward, keen, and perfectly perspicuous; but his treatment of more abstruse subjects suggests the interposition of some opaque medium between his intelligence and the object it would scrutinize, and (a sure token of imperfect discernment) his diction then becomes hazy and laboured. It is infinitely worse when he strives to render the abstract into the concrete. How a mind that had dwelt for an instant with

Shelley's Muse in her lucid pavilions-that had mingled but once with the luminous flight of the angels in the "thin flame" of Mr. Rossetti's sublime and spiritual visionhow such a mind should have perpetrated anything like the celestial revelations of the last book of this poem is to us an inscrutable

Such minor oversights cannot impair a reputation acquired by something far higher than mere literary merit. The secret of Mr. Patmore's genius and of his fame may be read by all in the simple and noble dedication of his work—"The 'Angel in the House,' is inscribed to the memory of her by whom and for whom I became a poet." Knowing something of what these proud and mournful words would convey, we feel it would be a profanation to add another of our own.

THE PRINCES OF EUROPE IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY.

Les Princes de l'Europe au XVIe Siècle. François I.; Philippe II.; Catherine de Médicis; les Papes; les Sultans, etc., d'après les Rapports des Ambassadeurs vénitiens. Par M. Armand Baschet. (Paris: Henri Plon. London: Dulau

MHE interesting insight given into the life of European courts during the time of the Reformation by the reports of Venetian ambassadors is well known to all historical students. Mr. Rawdon Brown's "Four Years at the Court of Henry VIII.," based on the despatches of Sebastian Giustinian to the Signory of Venice, showed the valuable materials still lying in the archives of the ancient city; and this source has now been further opened by M. Armand Baschet, who spent five years in ransacking the manuscript collections of the republic, under the instruction of the French Minister of State, Count Walewski, and with the permission of the Austrian Government. The result is a very attractive first volume, full of gossip and anecdote, and illustrating not a little of the inner life of the sixteenth century.

The series of princes, sketched from life by the shrewd and keen-eyed envoys of Venice, opens with Cosmo I., duke of Tuscany, of the so-called second family of the Medici. The portrait is drawn by Vincenzo Fedeli, in the year 1561, and gives a curious glimpse of the state of Florence at that period.

His highness leads a very retired life at home; but shows himself with much pomp abroad. He daily dines in company with his wife and children; his food is of the simplest, and the young princes have neither a separate table nor household, as is the case at other courts. Sometimes, too, the duke takes a promenade with his family in town, or in the neighbourhood; but, on these occasions, he is always accompanied by one company of horseguards, another of German soldiers, and a hundred musketeers. His highness is invariably in full armour, with his coat of mail, gauntlets, dagger and sword; and next to his person walk the captain-pensioners, never less than six hundred, who are called together, at an instant's notice, by the sound of trumpet. The duke, in his leisure moments, is very fond of literature, art, and science. He not only admires sculpture and painting, and has always some artists in these branches working for him, but he also employs writers to compose the history of his time, including the events of his own life, in Tuscan and Latin. Thus he shows himself in every respect a great prince, proud, as it is said, of being born under the same star as Octavius Augustus and the Emperor Charles V.

With Cosmo I. ended, it seems, the race of the sixteenth-century-model princes, learned, valiant, and occasionally ferocious, patronizing science, literature, and the fine arts, and promenading the streets in a coat of mail, with sword and dagger. In Cosmo's son and successor, Francis-the hero of the romantic love-story of the fair Venetian, Bianca Capello-we find already a very different man, representing a changed age. The sketch of Francis is by Andrea Gussoni, charged by the senate of the republic, in 1576, to congratulate the duke on his accession :-

He takes little interest in hunting and other chivalric amusements, but gives his whole time to the study of alchymy and similar pursuits. He has invented a mode of melting rock-crystal, which he works up into goblets and vases, treating it in the furnace like ordinary glass. He has also discovered the secret of making Indian porcelain, after experiments extending over no less than ten years. In the cutting of precious stones he is very skilled; and he is likewise fond of manufacturing false diamonds and other precious stones, succeeding so well that they cannot be recognized by the jewellers themselves. But his greatest pleasure consists in distilling marvellous waters for the healing of the sick. Among others, he understands the making of a lotion of extraordinary effect, which, when applied to the pulse, the heart, the stomach, and the neck, cures those suffering from the pest, and is, moreover, a preventive against poison and all malignant diseases. His highness has told me himself that he has tried his lotion on people condemned to death, giving them poison first and curing them radically afterwards.

From Tuscany the reports of the Venetian ambassadors lead to Rome. It is a frightful picture, that sketched by Francesco Capello, the envoy of the republic, of the pontificate of Alexander VI., and the aspect of the eternal city under the sway of Cæsar Borgia.

One day the duke killed, at the side of Alexander VI., Messer Pierrotto, the favourite of the Pope. His Holiness was covered with blood all over. He also killed his brother, the Duke of Candia, and had his body thrown into the Tiber. Not a day passes but four or five bishops, noblemen, or prelates, are found murdered in the streets of Rome. The whole city trembles before the duke; everybody fears for his life. Madonna Lucrezia, the daughter of the Pope, was formerly much admired by his Holiness However, she is a clever woman, and has induced him lately to make her a present of Sermonetta, at an expense of 80,000 ducats. The Duke, however, stole it from her soon after, saying, "She is but a woman, and cannot keep property." . . . The Pope is now sixty years old, and seems to get younger every day. His cares and troubles seem to last never longer than a night; there is little that is serious in his nature, and all his thoughts are concentrated upon his own momentary interest. His chief ambition consists in raising his children in the world; beyond this he does not go. Nè d'altro ha cura."

Either all the former biographers of Alexander VI. have utterly misrepresented him, or Signor Francesco Capello knew less of human nature than the other diplomatic representatives of the republic. bability is that the true history of the celebrated pontiff remains yet to be written.

Passing over the life-like sketches of a number of other popes—Julius II., Leo X., Adrian VI., Clement VII., Pauls III. and IV., Pius IV. and V., Gregory XIII. and Clement VIII.—we come to the pictures of the court of the Sultan. On the whole, the successors of Mahomet contrast very favourably with the successors of St. Peter. The great Soliman was visited successively by no less than eighteen ambassadors of the Venetian republic, most of whom came to compliment him on his victories. Fourteen of these well-spoken gentlemen sent home detailed accounts of what they saw, all which are still to be found in the archives at Venice and Florence. At the age of thirtytwo Soliman is described as "pale, thin, care-worn, with long neck, and of feeble body, although possessed of a strong arm." He took pleasure, we learn, in reading the history of Alexander the Great, written in Persian by Nizami, and translated into Turkish by Ahmed-Dai. Sultan Soliman, according to the account given by the ambassador Bernard Navagero, had only one wife, a Russian by birth, of whom he was passionately fond, although she was by no means beautiful, and small in stature. The history of this marriage, as related in the despatches, is a chapter of romance which one would scarcely expect to hear from the court of the Sultan.

The greater part of M. Baschet's attractive volume is filled with the accounts given by the Venetian ambassadors of the court of France. Great Britain is but slightly touched, the author acknowledging that Mr. Rawdon Brown's work is all but exhaustive on the subject. Into the diplomatic history of France, on the other

hand, M. Baschet enters with great minuteness, quoting the despatches in full, together with a mass of other facts from new and unpublished sources, nearly all of which form most valuable contributions to the annals of the French court and government. The reigns of Charles VIII. and Louis XII. are merely glanced at; but those of Francis I. and Henry II. are investigated at some length, and about one-fifth of the whole volume is devoted to the history of Catherine of Medici. The public and private life of this princess, who played so distinguished a part in the history of France during the sixteenth century, is re-written once more from a new point of view, presenting aspects as strange as they are unexpected. In the picture thus given, the Reine mère appears a much nobler, loftier, and more imposing figure, greater in understanding, and freer from faults, than she is ordinarily represented by the historians of France.

WRAXALL'S ADVENTURERS AND MYSTERIES.

Remarkable Adventurers and Unrevealed Mysteries By Lascelles Wraxall. (Bentley.)

THERE is a great deal in a good title; and Mr. Wraxall has hit upon a very good one. An "Unrevealed Mystery" is a very treasure-house of attraction. Who the Man with the Iron Mask really was; whether the Dauphin of France was killed by Simon or not; was Beatrice Cenci guilty? and, if guilty, what was her crime?—these and a hundred similar historical problems have a strange charm for the majority of mankind. We ourselves know a most worthy and respectable gentleman, on the other side the Atlantic, who is firmly convinced that the Rev. Mr. Williams, the American Methodist minister, was the son of Louis XVI., the rightful heir to the throne of France and Navarre. To the present hour learned German doctors are squabbling about Kasper Hauser; and, long after the Crimean War and "Essays and Reviews" have ceased to interest anybody, we have no doubt that people will find a never-failing excitement in discussing the question of who committed the Road murder? We quite admit that this taste for sensation trials and tales of mystery is not a very elevated one. But still, pleading guilty to it, as we do, we were disposed to welcome Mr. Wraxall's book as a valuable contribution to our sensational literature.

We regret that our expectations have not been very fully realized. The book before us comes out at the wrong season of the year. It is a collection of stories which ought to be read at Christmas-time by young people, when the nights are long, and the reader feels an appetite for horrors. In this spring season, when the evenings are getting shorter and shorter, and when we write by day-light, we feel disposed to be at once more critical and more sceptical. The list of contents of "Remarkable Adventurers" is eminently attractive. The Mystery of Eishausen, Cagliostro, the Man with the Iron Mask, the Chevalier d'Eon, Walker the Filibuster, and some score of similar headings excite our anticipations to the highest pitch. But, as we read on, we find that there is more cry than wool in the pages we turn over. What is true in them, according to the old joke, is not new; and the very little that is new, seems to us of doubtful truth. Mr. Wraxall informs us in his preface that his work "is the result of many years' random readings and research." The author ought to know best; but, if we had had to state our own opinion, we should have said the book consisted chiefly of translations of a number of German pamph-lets on the "Causes Célèbres" of the Fatherland. The pages of Feuerbach and Dumas have, we fancy, been brought pretty largely into requisition. Very little care indeed has been taken to disguise the translator's hand; and passages occur frequently full of foreign idioms and of sentiments which sound absurdly strange in their English garb. Our

more serious complaint against the author is, that, dealing as he does with historical narratives, he has taken no trouble whatever to preserve any accuracy or consistency in his statements. He gives us no authorities, and we are always at a loss to discover whether what we are reading is an established fact, or a mere surmise of the writer's. However, it is absurd to quarrel with a story because it is not a history. The object of this work is to make up a number of readable tales concerning remarkable historical characters; and, to those who have never read the narratives before, Mr. Wraxall's book will be an amusing, if not an instructive one. It is a pity that the author is too much of a partisan, and obtrudes his personal and political prejudices upon us in a manner which shakes our confidence in his accuracy as a narrator. For instance, he espouses most warmly the cause of the Princess Sophia Dorothea, and indignantly repudiates any doubt as to the immaculate character of her relations with the Count of Königsmarck. He admits himself that the Count was an extremely profligate man; he describes the Court of Hanover as dissolute to the last degree; he dwells upon the romantic attachment entertained for the Princess by her admirer; and yet he requires us to believe that this attachment was purely Platonic. It is really too hard that anybody whose mind is not ingenuous enough to admit this hypothesis should have unworthy motives attributed to him. Mr. Thackeray, it seems, has incurred Mr. Wraxall's displeasure for insinuating a doubt as to the Princess's per-fect purity; and for this sin he is thus branded by our author :-

We dare say that Mr. Thackeray may have consulted the same works as ourself (sic); but, as a lecturer, he only required those statements which suited his own views, and it may fairly be said that Mr. Thackeray would at any time prefer a guilty to an innocent woman. . Besides, it must be borne in mind, that the lectures on the Four Georges were originally intended for an American audience, and it was doubtless considered a very fine thing in that country to make out the mother of George I., and ancestress of our gracious Queen, as no better than she should be. We can only hope that the low-minded, monarchy-hating Yankees will not turn to Mr. Wraxall's book to learn all that can be stated in favour of the parentage of our gracious Queen. If they do, we are afraid that their vulgar prejudice will be only confirmed. In order to clear the Princess, the author tries to make out that the Elector of Hanover committed a most brutal and utterly unprovoked assassination. Murder is possibly a more genteel crime than a breach of the Seventh Commandment; but perhaps the unsophisticated republican mind may not understand that the reputation of a family is much improved by clearing one member of a charge of adultery in order to tax another with the crime of murder. We trust that Mr. Thackeray may have sulted the works bearing on the subject with a little more accuracy than his assailant. In page 152 he informs us that the Princess Sophia was married to her cousin the Crown Prince of Hanover. "who afterwards ascended the throne under the title of George I.;" and in page 161 he adds the startling piece of intelligence that she was the mother of George I. Of course this is an oversight; but it shows the careless way in which the work has been compiled.

The same inaccuracy pervades the whole of the narrative. Mr. Wraxall tells us with truth that "only one fact was firmly established" (about the disappearance of the Count)—"that the Count went into the palace and never came out of it again." Yet, a couple of pages after this admission, he proceeds to give us a detailed account of what happened on that fatal night:—

The Countess Platen flashed the light on the face of her dying victim; the Count recognized her, and words were exchanged, though what their nature was cannot now be asserted with any certainty but it is indubitable, that Count Philip, while dying, asserted the innocence of the Princess.

Now on what evidence these statements rest we are left utterly in the dark; and we are still more puzzled to learn shortly afterwards, that it is an open question, whether Count Königsmarck died at all on the night in question, and whether he was not imprisoned for many months previous to his death. If Mr. Wraxall only professes to be writing history after the fashion of Dumas, we have no more to say, except that even the boundless audacity of the French romancer never rose to the height of attacking a brother histories for went of accuracy.

torian for want of accuracy. The most interesting, however, of the "Unrevealed Mysteries" are those which, not being connected with historical events, are comparatively unknown. It is very possible that the narrative of the "Mystery of Eishausen" may be as full of errors as that of the Königsmarck tragedy; but, as the dramatis personæ are people of no great importance, it matters little how much or how little the story of their lives is exaggerated. For thirty-five years a mysterious stranger lived in the vicinity of the little town of Eishausen in absolute seclusion, accompanied by a veiled lady, whose face was never seen. Nobody knew who he was, or whence he came, or what country he belonged to. The most extraordinary precautions were taken to disguise all knowledge of his proceedings. He never communicated with anybody except by writing. He was apparently in constant intercourse by post with the outer world, and yet no visits were ever paid him. Whether his companion was young or old, mad or sane, married or single, whether even he had not more than one companion, were all mysteries, which the Eishausen public never solved. The stranger was wealthy, and gave money freely to public charities; and, either on account of his benevolence, or of some secret influence in high quartert, he led his hermit's life unmolested. As his death, in 1845, no clue was discovered as to the cause of his seclusion; the lady, we should add, whether wife or mistress, had died some years before him. It is true, that papers were found identifying him with a Dutch merchant, a Cornelius Van der Valck, and that a namesake appeared, proved his relationship, and obtained the property. The probability seems to have been that this statement was correct; and, indeed, a faint indication was found as to relations which might have existed between the recluse and the woman whose nature would not impossibly account for his having shunned the society of his fellow-men. Wraxall, however, is convinced that this explanation is absolutely untenable, and inclines to the supposition that the whole Van der Valck relationship was assumed in order to divert all investigation as to the real character of the mysterious stranger. The story is a queer one, whatever hypothesis you adopt. But the least tenable of all appears to us to be that which would identify the lady with the Duchess of Angoulême.

We have spoken our opinion freely as to the defects of the book before us. We can, however, recommend all persons who like to have their imaginations excited by the perusal of marvellous stories to read the "Unrevealed Mysteries." They will spend a few hours not unpleasantly; and, if they know rather less of history when they have finished than when they began, no great harm will be done after all.

E. D.

FERNS AND FERN-LITERATURE.

Species Filicum; being Descriptions of the known Ferns, particularly of such as exist in the Author's Herbarium, or are with sufficient accuracy described in works to which he has access; accompanied with numerous Figures. By Sir William J. Hooker, K.H., &c., &c. 4 vols. 8vo. (London: Pamplin.) 1846-1862.

Index Filicum: a Synopsis, with Characters, of the Genera, and an Enumeration of the Species of Ferns, with synonymes, references, &c., &c. By Thomas Moore, F.L.S., &c. 12mo. (London: Pamplin.) 1857-1863. Ueber einige Farngattungen. Von Dr. G. Mettenius, Professor an der Universität zu Leipzig. 4to. (Frankfurt: Pamplin.)

A Century of Ferns; being Figures, with brief Descriptions, of one hundred new, or rare, or imperfectly known species of Ferns, from various parts of the world; a selection from the Author's "Icones Plantarum." By Sir William J. Hooker, K.H., &c., &c. 8vo. (London: Pamplin.) 1854.

A Second Century of Ferns; being Figures, with brief Descriptions, of one hundred new, or rare, or imperfectly known species of Ferns; from various parts of the world. By Sir William J. Hooker, K.H., &c., &c. 8vo. (London: Pamplin.) 1854.

WHATEVER may be the shortcomings of those who make ferns their peculiar study, they cannot be charged with holding back the results of their labours. Stimulated partly by the great popularity which these plants have acquired, partly by the wide field opened by the ever increasing number of novelties yearly brought to notice by modern explorers, special works of more or less pretension, exclusively devoted to the study of pteridology, have of late years rapidly increased, both in number and bulk, and ferns may now be said to possess a vast literature of their own.

The first thing that strikes us in looking over the works cited above is the great disparity in the nomenclature adopted by the authors. A slight examination is sufficient to convince us that the great questions as to the limitation of genera and the definition of species are, as far as ferns are concerned, in a most unsettled state. Indeed, it would appear that these questions are less settled in this than in any other class of plants. No two pteridologists are in perfect accord; and, until some conclusion as to the respective value of the different organs is arrived at, it is hopeless to expect a better state of things. Take the case of genera. At one extreme we have the "lumpers," as they are now called, who, in an off-hand manner, avow their preference for large genera, and, by adopting strictly artificial characters, contrive to mass hundreds of species under one generic name, totally regardless of their widely dissimilar habits and manner of growth. For example, in the lately published part of the "Species Filicum," which is almost wholly occupied with an elaboration of the free-veined division of Polypodium, the author has combined in a single genus an immense number of the most incongruous species; such plants as the Holcosorus pentagonus of Moore (formerly referred to Grammitis by Hooker, but now placed by him in Polypodium), a little creeping-rooted fern with grass-like fronds, scarcely ten inches long and less than a line wide, being placed in the same genus with the large species of Phegopteris, many of which possess stout erect stems and decompoundmultifid fronds six or more feet long and proportionately wide. At the other treme we have the "splitters," who take a diametrically opposite view, and divide these large cumbrous genera into a multiplicity of smaller ones, in some cases with very beneficial results and in others with the reverse. Between these two extremes a third class endeavour, as they say, to steer a middle course, though, as far as we can see, those who profess to do this differ amongst themselves as widely as any others. A very curious instance of this occurs in the prefaces to the first two works at the head of this notice. Both authors express a bias in favour of a middle course; and yet different are the results respectively arrived at! Hooker's "Species Filicum," as far as it is yet completed, contains the characters of forty-nine genera, or what the author regards as such, together with their synonyms; and by comparing these with the table of genera in the "Index Filicum," we find that Mr. Moore divides them into exactly a hundred, just two more than double the number!

With respect to species the case is even worse. Whenever a species is subject to variation—and variation appears to be the rule with ferns rather than the exception—

the most conflicting views are held, even by the most able pteridologists. What one author ranks as a species, another considers nothing more than a variety; and, to add to the confusion, an immense number of bad species have from time to time been created, either by botanists possessing a very limited knowledge of ferns, or, where that was not the case, through too great reliance being placed upon accidental variations seen in single specimens. The result is that fern nomenclature is fast lapsing into a state of chaos. Mr. Smith, in the preface to his little work on "Cultivated Ferns," says that few ferns now possess less than two names, while some have upwards of twenty. Under these circumstances pteridologists of all classes must have hailed with pleasure the commencement of Mr. Moore's "Index Filicum," the main object of which is to reduce the confused mass of names into something like order. He compiled an alphabetical list of all the genera, including not only those which he considers worthy of being adopted, but all others known to him, whether published or unpublished, and enumerating under each genus all the species that have at any time been referred to it by different authors, distinguishing, to the best of his ability, those entitled to rank as true species, and adding to these all the various aliases under which they occur in the works of others. Before commencing the most important portion of his work, however, Mr. Moore drew up a scientific classification of the genera and remodelled their characters, taking for his basis the most important differences in venation and in the nature of the fructification, following in this respect Presl and J. Smith; and these are further elucidated by an admirable series of analytical plates by Fitch. Few men would have had the courage to undertake a work of this nature, or sufficient patience to insure that correctness without which it would be a hindrance rather than a help to the working botanist; and Mr. Moore deserves the highest praise for the manner in which he has so far executed his laborious task. Twenty numbers have now appeared, carrying the "Index" to as far as the letter G, and embracing 73 genera and 1738 species; from which data we may calculate the total number of species of ferns at rather more than 4000. A glance at this work shows that Mr. Smith is only too correct in his remarks on the plurality of fern nomenclature. Species without an alias are the exception: many have six or eight, while Ceratopteris thalictroides rejoices in no fewer than twentyseven, this unfortunate fern having at one time or other gone under no fewer than twelve distinct generic and fourteen distinct specific

Surely it is high time that some steps were taken to reconcile these conflicting views. It is, perhaps, hopeless to expect any agreement in regard to species: for, now that so many of our ablest botanists are tainted with Mr. Darwin's recent revival of the Lamarckian theory in a modified form, the idea of what is and what is not a species is gradually becoming looser and looser. But with genera the case is altogether different. Few hold the opinion that genera are anything more than man's creations; and we therefore cannot help thinking that pteridologists would do more for the advancement of science were they to meet each other half-way, instead of carrying out their favourite theories to their

furthest limits.

In flowering plants it is universally allowed that the organs of reproduction offer the most reliable characters for genera; but in ferns these are so extremely simple, and so uniform in large numbers of species, that, in order to avoid unwieldy genera, it is absolutely necessary to seek assistance from some other organs. It is quite true that Linnaeus was able to establish well-marked genera upon the sorus alone; but it must be remembered that whilst we have to deal with 4000, in his day not more than 180 species were known, and consequently no inconvenience was experienced from the paucity of genera. In point of fact, the proportion of

genera to species was greater in Linnæus's time than in the most minutely divided system of the present day. Since Linnaus, the principal pteridologists whose investiga-tions have had the merit of originality are Presl, J. Smith, and Fée-the two former of whom adopted the differences in the mode of venation, in conjunction with the nature of the sorus, as a basis for new classifications. This method, or some modification of it, has been acquiesced in by many subsequent authors, whilst others, such as Hooker in this country and Mettenius in Germany, have unfortunately reverted in a great degree to the old Linnæan system, and depend for the most part upon the sorus alone for their

characters. The "Species Filicum" of Sir William Hooker is by far the most important and comprehensive work on these plants that has ever appeared—the author professing to give descriptions of all the ferns known to him, either by means of dried specimens, or through the accurate descriptions of others. With the immense quantity of material at his disposal, it might well be expected to contain all known ferns. Commenced in 1846, it has recently arrived at the close of the fourth volume, but is still far from complete-the large tribe Polypodieæ being unfinished, and the equally large Acrostichica untouched; besides which there are the exannulate sub-orders Marattiacea, Osmundacea, &c. Sir William Hooker is a strong advocate of large genera, and consequently we find that he describes 123 species of Pteris, 305 of Asplenium, and 152 of Nephrodium, while the still unfinished Polypodium already numbers 223, and bids fair to outrival even Asplenium in point of cumbrousness. Against these enormous genera we should have deemed it our duty emphatically to protest, were it not for the circumstance that the author, though professing to repudiate them, in point of fact adopts the genera of the "splitters," though only as sections. Indeed, his work would scarcely be usable without them, for it is only by their help that we are saved the labour of wading through two or three hundred species in order to find out the name of a single individual. In short, the difference between the two schools of pteridology is in some cases more apparent than real. As an illustration of this, we may point to the genus Asplenium, with its 305 species. The character of this genus given by Hooker is derived solely from the sorus, and is merely an extension of that of Swartz, so that it embraces seven of Smith's or eight of Moore's genera, the names of which are duly recorded, and apparently consigned to oblivion as synonyms of "Asplenium," though they immediately afterwards make their appearance again as the names for the six sections into which the author finds himself compelled to divide the genus! Thus, the only difference is, that Moore would call the bird's-nest fern of our hot-houses Thamnopteris Nidus, or Smith the scale-fern of our walls Ceterach officinarum, while Hooker would call the former Asplenium (Thamnopteris) Nidus, and the latter Asplenium (Hemidictyum) Ceterach. The multiplication of names caused by small genera is said by their opponents to be burdensome to the memory. But are not two names less burdensome than three?

While giving Sir William Hooker the greatest credit for the indefatigable perseverance brought to bear on the preparation of this work, we cannot help expressing regret at seeing it so much disfigured with typographical and other errors—particularly the later volumes, which appear to have been prepared with less care than the former. His system of classification, also, is much obscured by the confusion of terms. His first intention appears to have been to divide the fern order into sub-orders, such as Gleicheniaceæ, Polypodiaceæ, Osmundaceæ, &c., principally upon characters derived from the capsules, and sub-dividing them when necessary into tribes; and thus in the first volume we have the characters

of sub-orders I. and II., Gleicheniaceæ and Polypodiacea, together with the two first tribes of the latter (Cyathea and Dicksoniew); but Davalliew, which is certainly nothing more than a third tribe of Polypodiacew, is made a sub-order. With the exception of Lindswew, this course is followed throughout the remainder of the work-each of what we take to be tribes being termed sub-orders, so that he has a sub-order II. Polypodiaceae in the first volume, and a sub-order IX. Polypodies in the fourth. To make matters worse, the character of this last "sub-order" is, unlike that of the rest, extremely brief, and therefore not sufficient to exclude the genus Alsophila, as characterized by Hooker. In fact there is nothing in his character of Polypodium to enable students to distinguish it from his Alsophila.

Skilfully executed figures, by Fitch, of a large number of species are given; but, unfortunately, in the late volumes the number is greatly diminished, the original plan of including several species on a plate having been almost completely abandoned. Ferns, above all plants, require, as the author himself admits, to be illustrated by figures; and on this account the two "Centuries, each containing a hundred plates, accompanied with descriptions of new or little known species, are acceptable additions to fern literature, and may be regarded as a kind of supplement to the "Species Filicum." The work of Professor Mettenius consists of

a series of separate memoirs on the larger tribes of Polypodiaceæ. Like Hooker, this author favours large genera, on account, he says, of the difficulty of defining the limits of smaller ones; yet, strange to add, he finds it quite possible to divide his genera into sections and sub-sections innumerable. But it must not be imagined that these two authors, though both advocating large genera, agree any better than other pteridologists. While Mettenius combines Aspidium and Nephrodium, Hooker separates them—and while Hooker combines Polypodium and Phegopteris, Mettenius separates them; and so on. It is not very easy to understand the system adopted by this author in the division of his genera; and, from what we can make out, it seems to be comprehensible only by very experienced pteridologists. For example, he distributes the species of Polypodium into seventeen sections, for many of which he employs the names given by other authors to genera belonging to totally different tribes, such as Canopteris, Eupteris, Doodya, Pleocnemia, &c.; and this apparently for the purpose of comparison, his meaning being, we presume, that the species referred to any of these sections possess some of the characters of the genus placed at its head. Therefore, in using his analytical table, it is necessary to be acquainted with the characters of " Ctenopteris, Eupteris, vel Neuropteris," before we are enabled to discover the whereabouts of Polypodium vulgare.

Truly, if something be not done to put a stop to all this discord, the study of one of the most beautiful classes of plants will be rendered so repulsive by a cumbersome nomenclature that few will care to pursue it. We earnestly hope that pteridologists will see the necessity of settling some of the questions which at present bar the progress of this

branch of science.

CLERICAL SUBSCRIPTION.

On Clerical Subscription: an Inquiry into the Real Position of the Church and the Clergy in reference to (1) the Articles, (2) the Liturgy, (3) the Canons and Statutes. By the Rev. Charles Hebert, M.A., Vicar of Lowestoft. (Macmillan.)

MR. HEBERT was not wrong in supposing that the engagements contracted by the clergy were becoming an important practical question. That a clergyman here and there should find his views change to such a degree that he cannot sit easily under the responsibilities he has incurred, might not create much surprise or alarm; no con-

ceivable alteration of the status of a clergyman could provide for all the changes of opinion to which clergymen as well as other human beings are liable. But, when it is credibly reported that many of the young men who would be of most value in the ministry of the Church are deterred from taking Orders by the bonds to which they would be required to submit themselves, it is high time for the public to look to it. It may be an evil that the Church of England should be disturbed by internal strife; but it would be a far more deadly and incurable evil that it should be quietly deserted. The subject is about to be brought before both Houses of Parliament, by Lord Ebury and Mr. Charles Buxton; and it is very important to consider whether anything can be done in the matter, and whatmay be attempted with the best hope

Visionary proposals of reform are sure to be made, which would relieve one party without satisfying any other, and which the general body would not think of accepting; and Mr. Hebert's views, however moderate, are likely to be placed in this category. It is gratifying to be able to say of the work of a clergyman who has stood forward as a champion of Evangelicalism, that it is reasonable and learned and shows no taint of party spirit; and Mr. Hebert's proposed changes are in an unexpectedly liberal direction. But the policy he advocates is one which it would be vain to attempt to carry out, and it may serve as an example of what is to be avoided, for the present at least, in the practical conduct of the question. According to Mr. Hebert, the time is come for greater stringency in the construction of subscriptions: public opinion, grown more sensitive as to truth and honour, demands it; and the law, as interpreted by Dr. Lushington, will insist upon it. Therefore, greater care must be taken to make the Articles and the Prayer-book such as all right-minded clergymen must heartily And Mr. Hebert accordingly proposes that a Royal Commission be appointed, to raise the Articles and the Liturgy to a higher degree of doctrinal accuracy. He has considered what changes are likely to be required; and there are two to which he gives prominence. One of these is the omission of the damnatory clauses from the Athanasian Creed; the other is a correction of the IXth Article. That Article contains the following clause, "And therefore in every person born into this world, it [original sin, or the flesh] deserveth God's wrath and damnation." Understanding this to mean that all infants deserve God's wrath and damnation, Mr. Hebert naturally objects to it, and would have the clause omitted or emended. A few other suggestions are made, as of minor importance, in this volume; amongst which is the significant one, that the Article condemning the opinion of those who hold "that all men, be they never so ungodly, shall at length be saved, when they have suffered pains for their sins a certain time appointed by God's justice,"—an Article deliberately excluded from the list now in force,-"might be deemed by competent authority worthy of reinsertion now." (p. 144.)

Any such attempt to emend the articles is sure to cause dissatisfaction and to fail in its object. The real desire of all who do not wish to limit the comprehensiveness of the Church of England, and to give it over to a party, must be to secure as much freedom to the clergy as is compatible with certain important conditions. Those conditions must be respected; they deserve to be considered, and they must be, by those who would carry the public with them in any change. To advocate unlimited "freedom of thought" with rhetorical appeals to our love of truth, is to forget the very nature of a Church. It belongs to the nature of a National Church that the parishes should be protected from the casual opinions of individual elergymen; and it belongs to the nature of a branch of the Church of Christ that it should bear a clear

and faithful witness to the Gospel of Christ. If these conditions are to be slighted, the Church had better be dissolved at once. But, subject to a due regard for these, it might be generally agreed that no needless professions should be exacted from young men as the terms of entering the ministry of a great and comprehensive Church.

What is now exacted of those who take orders and benefices? To speak briefly, a clergyman is required to profess his unfeigned assent to the Thirty-nine Articles, and his unfeigned assent and consent to all and everything contained and prescribed in and by the Book of Common Prayer. These subscriptions are in addition to the answers made at Ordination. Now, it need hardly be said that almost every thoughtful and modest young man, if he had his choice, would rather not sign those declarations. He may have no definite objections formed in his mind; but he may reasonably feel that he has not been able to give such study to the Prayer-book and the Articles as would warrant him in expressing so emphatic an agreement with them. Or, some objections may have occurred to him, which would not deter him from ministering in the Church, but which he would feel it more honest not to smother into the required assent. And it is not only to young men taking orders that these declarations are a stumbling-block, but they are also something of a scandal to the outer world. Their sound is startling; the laity of the Church are apt to smile rather suspiciously at them; and to opponents of the Church they serve as occasions for taunts

and scoffs. Suppose that the clerical subscriptions which have these painful effects were abolished altogether, how would the present state of things be modified? This is the question which Parliament and the public will be called upon to consider. It must be said in answer that neither the relief that is desired, nor the license that is feared, would be much advanced. The clergy would not be released from their legal obligation to preach and to teach in conformity with the Articles and the Prayer-book. In fact, the status of a clergyman with reference to these formularies, after he has taken orders or a benefice, would be scarcely in the slightest degree altered. There are acts which prescribe that the teaching of a clergyman shall not contradict the formularies of the Church, and under those acts any one suspected of heterodoxy may be prosecuted. Messrs. Williams and Wilson are put upon their trial, not as to their fidelity to their engagements, but as to the agreement of their writings with the Articles and the Prayer-book. Indeed, the subscriber does not promise assent and consent for the future—he only expresses it at the time of his signing. So that, if a clergyman, reminded of his subscriptions, should choose to reply, "Yes, but I have changed my mind," he would be free as regards the mere letter. It is true that an appeal might be made to his sense of honour. You might say to him, "But can you continue to retain advantages which you acquired by making a certain profession, when you can make that profession no longer?" just as his constituents might say to a member of Parliament who changed his politics after an election. But this appeal gives no legal power to those who make it. And, if we are to consider what would tell upon the sensitive conscience of an honourable man, would any one desire that a clergyman, able to use conscientiously the services of the Church and to preach without offending against her formularies, should be driven by a scruple about his subscriptions, in the improbable case of his entertaining any, to abandon her ministry? It should be remembered that the honourable and scrupulous man is the one who would be the least willing to recite creeds and to say prayers which he disbelieved. Bishop Colenso is not moved by his subscriptions, but he tells us plainly that he could not use the Prayer-book services.

The clergyman, then, would be just as liable to prosecution, and would be subject

to-the same laws, if subscriptions were abolished, as he is now. So that the gain in the way of the freedom of opinion from the restraints of orthodoxy would be inconsiderable. But the advantage in the removal of a stumbling-block from the approach to Holy Orders would not be trifling. And, if the change is not very great, it is a very simple and easy one. Churchmen and politicians may well be alarmed by the idea of remodelling the Articles or the Liturgy to suit the mind of the nineteenth century. But nothing needs to be substituted for clerical subscription. It is a vexatious form, which distresses and repels tender consciences, and may be easily cut away like a mere excrescence.

If, along with this act of prudence and consideration on the part of the legislature, a really liberal principle of construction be firmly adopted by our tribunals in trials involving religious doctrine, clergymen will have as much freedom as in the present state of men's convictions they can expect to be allowed to them. It is to be hoped that the Privy Council may feel justified in developing still more completely the equitable and considerate spirit which guided the greater part of Dr. Lushington's judgments. No one can wish that the Privy Council should be more liberal than Dr. Lushington was, for example, in the construction he put upon the Deacon's answer in the ordination service, or upon the VIth Article. In many cases, it may be maintained, the liberal interpretation is also the sound one. Mr. Hebert's difficulty about the IXth Article is a curious illustration of this. The Article says that Original Sin, or the Flesh which always lusts against the Spirit, in every person that is born deserves God's wrath and condemnation. Many people, no doubt, might take this as he does, and suppose that it declares Divine wrath and perdition against the unconscious infant. But, according to the Article, it is not the person, but the sin, which deserves the wrath and condemnation; which is a very different assertion. This is not hair-splitting, to escape from the inconvenient language of an obsolete dogma. A most important theological principle is involved in the distinction.

As regards the Athanasian Creed, it must be admitted that a considerate and largeminded and Scriptural interpretation of it, although it would exempt Mr. Wilson from the penalty of contradicting it, would not satisfy the widely prevalent feeling which Mr. Hebert represents. Its anathemas have an ugly sound when they are read out in Church. A popular audience, hearing the Creed read occasionally, will inevitably put the superficial construction upon its phrases. Those who value this Creed,-and many of the most thoughtful Christian minds have seen the highest value in it,-cannot be pleased that it should be put through such an ordeal. Probably there are few clergymen who do not feel some pain and misgiving in reciting it, and few congregations which would not be thankful for its disuse. If it were possible to obtain freedom as regards the public reading of the Athanasian Creed, that freedom would be generally received as a welcome boon. But, so long as this Creed is read publicly in our worship, it is the more necessary to protest that the vulgar superficial sense is not always the only or the truest sense of a document, and that a clergyman must not be held to believe exactly what the religious public may happen to read in our formularies.

Speaking for himself, the writer desires to state his conviction that the Anglican formularies are really far less narrow and minute and dogmatic than they are often supposed to be. They will scarcely be found to impose any fetters upon one who believes the great facts set forth in the Creeds, such as the Incarnation and its direct corollaries, and who is not himself a "minute" theologian. Where those facts are disbelieved, it is no longer a question of Church formularies, but

of the Gospel of Christ.

NOTICES.

Lispings from Low Latitudes; or, Extracts from the Journal of the Hon. Impulsia Gushington. (Murray. Pp. 82.) - THE following note is prefixed to the volume by Lord Dufferin, its editor: "This little volume of sketches, with their accompanying legend, was advertised to appear at Christmas last. In deference to the feelings of the author and artist (who at that time sustained a severe affliction) her kind Publisher has hitherto delayed its publication. Circumstances have now induced me to sanction its appearance. Although the contents of the volume are of a light and humorous character, they served an earnest purpose, in lightening the tedium and depression of long sickness in the person of a beloved friend." Hence this elegant oblong volume-of twenty-three humorous plates and an accompanying humorous story or extravaganza-meant originally for a Christmas book, appears now as a volume for Easter. By this time it is already in many drawing-rooms and on club-tables; and, wherever it is, there will be much laughing over the adventures which it chronicles of that enthusiastic and simpleminded spinster, the Hon. Impulsia Gushington, during her tour in the East. The whole makes a bit of as pleasant reading of the amusing kind as one could wish; and some of the situations, as described, and at the same time sketched for the eye, by the author, are irresistibly droll. Under the guise of extravaganza, too, there is capital writing, and much of the novelist's power of conceiving and conveying character. We are mistaken if "Miss Impulsia Gushington" will not become a well-known and favourite character, added to the popular list to which belong Mr. Thackeray's "Jeames," Mr. Punch's "Briggs," and Mr. Sothern's "Lord Dundreary." She is an original conception in the opposite direction from Lord Dundreary; and her very name is a stroke of inventive genius. Her adventures, it seems, are not yet over; for, at the close of this volume, she is still in Egypt, and still a spinster, though in an ecstatic crisis. More of her is promised. Might she not marry Lord Dundreary?

John Leifchild, D.D.: his Public Ministry, Private Usefulness, and Personal Characteristics. Founded upon an Autobiography. By J. R. Leifehild, A.M. (Jackson, Walford, and Hodder.) -THAT there would be a biography of a man so popular and so venerable as the late Dr. Leifchild - who was born at Barnet, in 1780, and died in London, in June, 1862, after having been for more than fifty years a chief among the Evangelical dissenting preachers of England -was to be expected. Considering what the man was, how long he lived, and how many connexions, with at least a portion of the religious and public life of England since the beginning of this century, were involved in his life, it was farther to be expected that any biography of him, tolerably well done, would have an interest even beyond the large circle of those who knew him, and were attached to him by religious or church sympathies. We must say, however, that the present biography of him by his son far exceeds the standard of such an ordinary biography. Not only will it be welcome as such a biography of Dr. Leifchild as was required, but there is no class of readers who know what good reading is but will find it a very interesting book. The author seems to have formed for himself an excellent plain notion of what a biography should be. Although he is clearly a man of intellectual tastes and accomplishments, and makes very good and strong remarks of his own, he restrains himself throughout from all self-display-letting his father tell his own story wherever there is written material, supplementing this story with very exact recollections of what he had heard his father say, and, for the rest, accumulating facts and narrating them simply, tersely, and yet very picturesquely. The book is full of fact, anecdote, incident, sketches of character, and good sayings well reported. When we say that such celebrities as John Wesley, William Huntingdon, Jabez Bunting, Rowland Hill, Wilberforce, Talfourd, Robert Hall, John Foster, Chalmers, and Hannah More, and others more recent or still living, all figure in the story, and have original and characteristic anecdotes told of them, it will be seen that it has interest for those curious in literary and social history. The book belongs, indeed, to the class which its title indicates; there is much in it about preaching, and what may be called the professionalities of the pulpit. But, in this kind, it is thoroughly well done; and it has merits that ought to recommend it, even where these things interest little or repel. It were to be wished that all sons who write the biographies of their fathers did them as well.

The Empire: a Series of Letters published in the Daily News, 1862-1863. By Goldwin Smith. Oxford and London: John Henry, and James Parker.) - Many persons will be glad to have in a collected form these pungent and powerful letters of Professor Goldwin Smith, in which he argued for the severance of the political connexion between the mother country and the colonies, and fought so hard with the Times on the subject. The letters are worthy of attention now, both from the importance of the subject, and on account of their great ability. Much of the thinking in them, indeed, seems to belong to the bone, as well as to the brain. The eminent author seems to have a constitutional instinct for differing from common and current notions. But even this enhances the value and interest of the letters; and it were well if more of our political thinking came from the very bone.

A Vacation Tour at the Antipodes, through Victoria, Tasmania, New South Wales, Queens-land, and New Zealand, in 1861-1862. By B. A. Heywood, M.A., Trinity College, Cambridge. (Longman & Co.)-THE author, having been recommended to take a long vacation and change of air for his health, determined to make a voyage to the Antipodes. He left England June 12, 1861, and returned October 15, 1862; and the present compact little volume, besides a general introductory sketch of the history of Australia, gives an account of his travels, inquiries, and observations in the lands named in the title. A very considerable mass of recent information, geographical, physical, social, and commercial, is presented, and the author closes with a chapter on emigration. The author has evidently a strong interest in geography and exploration, and the volume contains recent maps as well as other illustrations.

Many Thoughts of Many Minds. Compiled by Henry Southgate. Fourth Edition. (Griffin & Co. Pp. 682.)—Dr. Johnson's idea, that classical quotation is the pepper and salt of modern literature, has been carried out on a rather large scale in this volume of selections, gathered by Mr. Southgate, as is stated, "during the hours of relaxation from business." The work contains some thousand of well-chosen aphorisms and stately sentences, chiefly from English writers, arranged in alphabetical order, under the subject-nouns in question. The sentences are not abridged and mutilated, as in many other dietionaries of quotation, but given at full length, and classified, with great care, in divisions and subdivisions. Four successive editions within a short period attest the general usefulness of the work.

The Orations of Demosthenes. Translated by Charles Henry Kennedy. (Bohn. Pp. 401.)—The book just published forms the fifth and concluding volume of the works of Demosthenes published by Mr. Bohn.

Half-hours with our Sacred Poets. Edited, with Biographical Sketches, by A. H. Grant, M.A. (Hogg and Sons. Pp. 374.)—Many of our forgotten poets are presented here to the public. Old Thomas Tusser, of the sixteenth century; Richard Rolle, of the fourteenth; Thomas Marshall, John Skelton, Simon Wastel, Nicholas Breton, Edward Hake, and others, of whom, probably, many readers never heard, find themselves resuscitated in the "Half-hours."

Grammar of Grammars. By James Lowres. (Longman. Pp. 318.) The grammar contains several new features not common in works of this kind. At the commencement we find a synopsis of the principal English writers, with their chief works, arranged under the respective reigns and periods to which they belong. Appended to this is an essay on the progress of the language, illustrated by numerous specimens; which is followed by a chronological list of works on English grammar, from Richard Sherrye's "Treatise on the Figures of Grammar and Rhetorick," to the present age of multifarious grammars and grammarians. Mr. Lowres's work is intended chiefly for students preparing for government examinations.

The Physical Geology and Geography of Great Britain. By Professor A. C. Ramsay, F.R.S. (Stanford, Pp. 145.)—During the months of January and February last the learned president of the Geological Society delivered a course of six lectures to working-men, at the Museum of Practical Geology, Jermyn Street. These lectures have now been printed in a handy book-form, in which shape, we hope, they will largely make their way into mechanics' institutes and working-men's libraries.

Outlines of Modern Farming. By Robert Scott Burn. Vol. I. Soils, Manures, and Crops. (Virtue Brothers. Pp. 227.)—In our days of "four-acre farms," Mr. R. S. Burn's latest volume will prove a valuable handbook to many persons. It contains what the title promises, merely outlines or general rules of the art of farming, leaving the explanation of the principles and practise of agriculture to more extensive, or at least more detailed works. The author is eminently practical in all his remarks, taking care to impress the reader not to put too much importance in theory, but to remember constantly that farming abounds in "vexed questions," some of which appear to be as far from settlement as ever, after years of keen and vigorous discussion. To many of these disputed points special reference is made by Mr. Burn, and on some of them he does not hesitate to give opinions of his own. But, on the whole, his teaching consists chiefly in the enumeration of first principles, impressing upon the student all the while the importance of bearing continually in mind the numerous modifying influences which affect the results of farm-practice.

Treatise on the Mathematical Theory of the Steam-Engine. By T. Baker, C. E. (Virtue Brothers. Pp. 116.)—This useful little volume aims at supplying a link between purely popular and scientific literature. It treats of the mathematical theory of stationary, marine, and locomotive engines, stating all the results of recent scientific research, yet adapting itself to the wants of practical workmen, by giving rules, not only in formulæ, but also in words.

The Canterbury Hymnal: a Book of Common Praise, adapted to the Services in the Book of Common Prayer. By the Rev. R. H. Baynes, M.A. (Houlston and Wright. Pp. 232.)—This new collection of hymns has received its name "in the belief that it will be used in many parishes in the province and diocese of Canterbury, and in order to give it a distinctive title in these days when collections of hymns are so continually multiplied." The little work is printed in excellent clear type, and on peculiarly pretty yellow-tinted paper.

The Handbook of the Telegraph. By R. Bond. (Virtue Brothers. Pp. 68.)—Our globe is at this moment encircled by no less than 150,000 miles of telegraphic wires, without counting the heavy metal-ropes which lie buried in the depths of the ocean, connecting continents with continents. A "handbook" showing how the mechanical working of such a gigantic system is carried on, is as interesting almost to the general reader as to persons who make the subject their special study.

Cassell's Bible Dictionary. Illustrated. (Cassell, Petter, & Co. Pp. 32.)—This is the first instalment of a work designed to furnish the best information on Biblical subjects in the most popular and attractive form. The list of contributors includes some of the most eminent Biblical scholars: such as Dean Alford, the Rev. Professor Christmas, Rev. John Mills, Archdeacon Tattam, Isaac Taylor, Esq., and Dr. Tregelles.

An Exposition of the Epistle to the Romans, on the Principles of Scripture Parallelism. By J. H. Hinton, M.A. (Houlston and Wright. Pp. 308.) —The book contains the substance of a scries of discourses delivered at Devonshire Square Chapel during the years 1860, 1861, and 1862.

The Works of John Howe, M.A. Vol. V. (Religious Tract Society. Pp. 440.)—The volume now published contains the treatises on Divine Prescience and the Trinity, Stillingfleet's Sermon, the Three Discourses on Public Occasions, and the annotations on the Three Epistles General of John.

A Dictionary of Chemistry. By Henry Watts. Part 2. (Longman. Pp. exciii—384.)—The second part just issued brings Mr. Watts's Dictionary down to "Arsenites." Among the contents is a long and interesting article on Analysis.

Chambers's Publications. Narrative Series of Standard Reading Books (Pp. 208.) Encyclopædia of Universal Knowledge. Part 60. (Pp. 449-512.) The Works of William Shakespeare. Part 27. (Pp. 126.) Chambers's Journal. Part 111. (Pp. 64.)—The stream of sound and good literature which the two brothers, William and Robert, have kept flowing for nearly a generation continues its course undisturbed.

The Family Herald. Parts 238 and 239. March and April, 1863. (Benjamin Blake.)—The weekly circulation of this journal amounts, we believe, to very nearly half-a-million; yet it is undoubtedly higher in tone, more polished in style, and fuller in information than most of the high-priced periodicals which charmed the leisure of the upper ten thousand in the last generation.

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MISCELLANEA.

"THE Story of Elizabeth," written by Miss Thackeray for the "Cornhill Magazine," has been republished by Messrs. Smith and Elder in one volume. It will be one of the books most eagerly looked after about this time by those who, not having yet read the story in the magazine, are anxious to see how well the daughter of a great father can herself write.

THE Life of Wedgwood, our great artist-potter, is being written, on the basis of numerous family documents and other authentic sources, by Miss Meteyard, an authoress already known as "Silverpen.

"THE Story of the Guns," by Sir J. Emerson Tennent, is preparing for publication by Messrs. Longman & Co. The work, we understand, is a description of the great contest between the rival guns of Mr. Whitworth and Sir William G. Armstrong.

MR. JOHN BALL, the renowned mountain traveller, is getting ready for the press a "Guide to the Western Alps," forming part of a new and complete "Alpine Guide." The volume will include the description of Dauphiné, Savoy, and Piedmont, with the Mont Blane and Monte Rosa districts.

THE tenth American edition of "Essays and Reviews" has just been published at Boston, U.S., under the title—"The Famous Oxford Firebrand."

A VOLUME of "South American Sketches," by Thomas W. Hinchliff, M.A., Fellow of the Geological Society, is promised by Messrs. Longman & Co. for the beginning of May.

MESSRS. SMITH, ELDER, & Co. have the following works in the press for publication during the present season: — "Icelandic Scenes and Sagas," by Salune Baring Gould, Esq., in 1 vol., with numerous illustrations; "Queens of Song," a series of original memoirs, in 2 vols., of the most distinguished female vocalists, illustrating the progress of musical taste, and the state of the lyric stage from the commencement of the opera.

THE fifth and concluding volume of Bunsen's "Egypt's Place in Universal History," translated by C. H. Cottrell, M.A., is preparing for publication by Messrs. Longman & Co.

MESSRS. HURST and BLACKETT announce the following in their list of forthcoming works :-"Travels on Horseback in Mantchu Tartary: being a Summer's Ride beyond the Great Wall of China," by George Fleming, 1 vol., with Map and 50 Illustrations; "Fifty Years' Biographical Reminiscences," by Lord William Pitt Lennox, 2 vols.; "Mary Lyndsay," by the Lady Emily Ponsonby, 2 vols.; "Adventures and Researches among the Andamans," by Dr. Monat, with numerous Illustrations; "The Court and Society from Elizabeth to Anne," illustrated from the papers at Kimbolton, by the Duke of Manchester, 2 vols.; and "Impressions of Rome in 1862," by William Henry Wilberforce.

A NEW novel by Thomas Adolphus Trollope is announced by Messrs. Chapman and Hall.

A SECOND series of Gustav Freytag's "Pictures of German Life in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries," translated by Mrs. Malcolm, is preparing for publication.

On the 26th of May next, an important library, consisting chiefly of philological and historical works, and counting above 40,000 volumes, will be disposed of at Ghent, Belgium. The collection, containing many rare books, was formed by the late M. P. Leopold van Alstein, professor of Oriental languages at the University of Ghent.

On Wednesday, last week, the University of Edinburgh conferred the degree of LL.D., not only on Lord Palmerston, but, at the same time, on Mr. W. H. Fox Talbot, F.R.S., eminent as a man of science, and whose discoveries have identified him more particularly with the art of photo-

WE have reason to think that a romantic story of a certain Berlinese Zippe and a Dr. Böhmer, African travellers, furnished us last week by a contributor, and derived by him from the German papers, is, either in whole or in part, not authentic. We have instituted inquiries, and may have to communicate the result.

THE Queen has presented to Mr. Davis, author of "Leaves from Our Cypress and Our Oak" (a volume of Poems lately published on the Death of the Prince Consort and the Marriage of the Prince of Wales), a very handsome Gold Medal, as a mark of Her Majesty's gracious approval, accompanied by a letter saying that Her Majesty was much touched and pleased by the poems. The delicacy of feeling displayed in them, and the highly poetic language in which the feeling is expressed, were much appreciated and admired.

Does the Prince of Wales speak Welsh? is a question which has been recently asked in more than one quarter. His Royal Highness has just become the patron of the "Welsh Manuscript Society," a literary association established for the purpose of transcribing and printing the more important of the numerous Bardic and other manuscripts still existing in the principality, in private and public libraries. It is well known that a not inconsiderable amount of historical information is to be found in the yet unpublished poetry of Wales, particularly of the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth centuries. The inhabitants of the principality appear to take a lively interest in the proceedings of their "Manuscript Society," to judge by the list of vice-presidents of the association, which embraces the names of not less than thirty-four of the leading nobility and gentry.

ELECTRIC clocks have become very general in France within the last few years, several of the chief lines of railway, as well as a number of public buildings in Paris, being "timed" in this manner. It is now proposed to erect small clocktowers, simple columns, with dials on all sides, in the main thoroughfares of the French metropolis, to give the true time, to the second, to all passers-by. The hands of the whole of the dials will be put in movement by an electric current from the Paris observatory.

It is singular how little progress has been made in the art of ballooning in the course of nearly three generations. In 1783, M. Montgolfier con-

structed the first balloon, rarefying the air by means of fire; and, at this moment, in April, 1863, M. Godard, the greatest of French aeronauts, is constructing for himself, at Bordeaux, a balloon exactly on the model of that of Montgolfier. M. Godard says that, after thoroughly investigating the question of aerial navigation, he has come to the conclusion that Montgolfier's system is not only the simplest and least expensive, but the safest and most scientific. The fuel used by M. Godard is straw, burnt in a large iron stove or pan of four yards in diameter, hanging immediately under the balloon. By a simple contrivance the aeronaut can extinguish the fire in a moment, and light it again in the shortest possible time. He consequently requires no ballast, being enabled to rise and sink by regulating the flame. By experi-ments made at Bordeaux on the 29th of March and following days, it was shown that only fifteen minutes are required to inflate M. Godard's balloon, which weighs, stove and all, some 600 kilogrammes, or above 1200 pounds.

THE Palace of Industry in the Champs Elysées, Paris, has just opened for the reception of articles contributed to the great artistic exhibition of 1863, which is to commence on the 1st of May. The rewards this year will be on a larger scale than usual. Twenty-one medals are to be given to painters, twelve to sculptors, seven to engravers, and six to architects. Finally, a great medal of honour, of the value of 4000 francs, is to be awarded as "Imperial Prize" to the most successful competitor in any department.

THE death at Algiers, on the 26th of March, of Mr. Augustus Egg, R.A., at the age of forty-seven, has deprived England of one of her best known *genre* painters. Mr. Egg was born in London in 1816; in 1838 he sent to the Academy Exhibition a picture of "A Spanish Girl;" in 1840 he exhibited at the Academy "A Scene in the Boar's Head, Cheapside"—thus hitting the vein of art most suitable to him; and, since that time, he has been a busy painter, more particularly of semi-historical scenes and scenes of humour from Shakespeare, Scott, and Le Sage. His "Life and Death of Buckingham," produced in 1855, is one of his well-remembered pictures. He was elected Associate of the Academy in 1848, and Academician in 1860.

THE Philosophical Institution of Edinburgh held its seventeenth annual meeting on Monday, the 31st of March. From the report read, it appears that the institution-known hitherto as one of the most ably managed in the kingdomis at the present moment more flourishing than ever. At the end of the last financial year there was a larger balance on hand than at the beginning, and this notwithstanding a special outlay in building. "This prosperous state of affairs, say the directors, "is chiefly attributable to an increase in the number of the ordinary annual subscribers." The library of the Institution now counts 14,000 volumes; the news-room continues to be the place in Edinburgh where almost everybody meets everybody else; and the classes of Latin, French, German, &c., for the junior members, are in full operation. But what has chiefly obtained the Institution its celebrity at a distance is the care that has been taken to arrange the courses of lectures annually delivered, in connexion with it, by men of note. The past lectureseason was opened by an address by Sir John Pakington; and, among the lecturers who followed him, each on a suitable subject, were Mr. Waterhouse Hawkins, Dr. J. D. Morell, Mr. Robert Carruthers, Mr. James Hannay, Principal Tulloch, and Mr. Robert Bell.

To-DAY is the fifth and last day of the sale, by Messrs. Sotheby and Wilkinson, of the library of her late Royal Highness the Princess Elizabeth, Landgravine of Hesse-Homburg, the third daughter of George III., and one of the nunts of Queen Victoria. She was born in 1770; and in 1818 she married Frederick-Joseph-Lewis-Charles-Augustus, Landgrave of Hesse-Homburg. Her library seems to have been pretty extensive, consisting of very miscellaneous books, gathered together by various accidents-some rare and curious; not a few splendid-books of engravings; and some, manuscripts, illuminated or illustrated. She would seem also to have been really fond of books-as many, or most, of those just sold have her autograph signature in them, while in not a few there are curious autograph notes, stating from whom she received the book (generally from one of her sisters, or some lady at court), or otherwise recording some fact or impression concerning it. In a copy of "Alison's Sermons," printed at Edinburgh, 1814, there is this note in the Princess's hand: "Sent me from

Scotland by dear Lady Catheart in the spring of 1814." In a copy of the English Bible, printed at Cambridge 1796-98, there is this entry: "Given me by my mother, December 28th, 1806. Eliza;" and again, this, opposite chap. xiv. of St. John's Gospel: "This beautiful chapter I read this morning, April 9, 1829, the moment after I had paid my last visit to my angel husband in his coffin; greatly have I been supported in my affliction, and I have thoroughly felt the blessing of religion; too thankful to God I can never be." In a copy of Bunyan's "Heart's Ease in Heart Trouble" there is the note, "Given me by Augusta, October 10th, 1815; Windsor Castle." In a copy of "Mason on Self-Knowledge" is written by the Princess, "This book was given me by Mama, December 7th, 1792. This book makes me always feel most humble and most happy." In another earlier copy of the same book, a withered rose is placed between the leaves. In a copy of Sturm's "Morning Communings with God" are some ivy leaves with the note-"Ivy leaves from Bushey, Windsor, Bagshot, Frogmore, given me by the dear Queen, Augusta, and Mary, whilst I was in England in 1830 and 1831;" and, in a copy of the late Archbishop Sumner's "Practical Exposition of the Gospel according to St. John," in which many passages are marked, occurs this note, "Given me by my dear sister, Augusta. A more beautiful, interesting and valuable book never was written; and may God in his mercy make me the better for it! It has been of essential use to me in the hours of trial, and ever made me tremble in prosperity." These samples will show that it is chiefly in religious and devotional books that there are such annotations; but there were books in the library of other kinds, also annotated. Altogether, a Thackeray, looking over the catalogue of this library of one of George the Third's daughters, would see character and interest in it -nay, a little history

THE number of the "Atlantic Monthly" for the present month of April contains, under the title of "On the Vicissitudes of Keats's Fame," some interesting recollections of Keats's last hours, and of conversations about Keats, after his death, with Samuel Rogers, Sir Walter Scott, and others, written by the artist, Mr. Severn, the well-known friend of Keats, who tended him at Rome on his death-bed, and whose portrait of Keats is the authentic likeness. Mr. Severn, who returned to Rome after an absence of twenty years in 1861, and is now residing there, has sent these recollections to the American periodical; and they are perhaps somewhat tinged in tone by the wish to suit the taste of the American public for British literary anecdote. The following passage about the present state of Keats's grave at Rome will interest here, as well as in America:-"That grave, which I can remember as once the object of ridicule, has now become the poetic shrine of the world's pilgrims who care and strive to live in the happy and imaginative region of poetry. The head-stone, having twice sunk, owing to its faulty foundation, has been twice renewed by loving strangers; and, each time, as I am informed, these strangers were Americans. Here they do not strew flowers, as was the wont of olden times, but they pluck everything that is green and living on the grave of the poet. The Custode tells me that, notwithstanding all his pains in sowing and planting, he cannot 'meet the great consumption.' Latterly an English lady, alarmed at the rapid disappearance of the verdure on and around the grave, actually left an annual sum to renew it." Mr. Severn adds that he is now engaged on a picture of the poet's grave, in which he is introducing suggestions and associations from "Endymion." He tells us also that he has recently met Keats's sister in Rome, whom he had known in her childhood, but had not seen since then, though he had heard of her marriage to Señor Llanos, "a distinguished Spanish patriot," and of her permanent residence in Spain.

THE same number of the "Atlantic Monthly" contains a paper entitled "Personal Reminiscences of the late Henry Thomas Buckle," by some American, who does not give his name. The reminiscences are in the form of a journal of ten days spent by the writer in Cairo (Feb. 6-15, 1862); during which he had the good fortune several times to meet Mr. Buckle, who was then on his tour in the East for his health, and, as it proved, within three months and a half of his death. The reports given of Mr. Buckle's conversation seem quite authentic, and are very interesting. Thus, being asked whether the strong opinions of his book had subjected him to personal hostility or anything like social ostracism, he said they had not, and added naively-"In

fact, the people of England have such an admiration of any kind of intellectual splendour that they will forgive for its sake the most objectionable doctrines." He thought Alison's History "the worst that was ever written." He regarded John Stuart Mill, "of all living men, as possessing the greatest mind in the world." He seems to have been communicative about himself; and the following account of what he said on this head, if not new, contains new particulars :- "When he was a boy, he was so delicate that it was thought he could not live; the celebrated Dr. Abernethy, who was a particular friend of his father, saw how important it was to keep him from mental excitement, and begged that he might not be troubled by lessons. Accordingly, he was never sent to school at any time, except for a brief period to a clergyman who had directions not to make him study; and he was never regularly taught anything. Until eight years of age he hardly knew his letters. At the age of fifteen he found out Shakespeare and read him with great zest. At seventeen he conceived the plan of his book, and resolved to do two things to make himself fit to write it: first, he resolved to devote four hours a day to the study of physical science, in order that he might be able fully to understand and to unfold its relations with history; secondly, he resolved to devote an equal portion of each day to the study of English composition and practice in writing, in order that he might be able to set forth his opinions with force and perspicuity. To these resolutions he adhered for twelve years. . . . He has long since abandoned the practice of writing at night, and now does not put pen to paper after three o'clock in the afternoon. When at home, in London, he walks every day, for about an hour and a half, at noon; frequently dines out, and reads perhaps an hour after coming home. He goes exclusively to dinner-parties, because they take less time than others. When he is engaged in composition, he walks about the room, sometimes excitedly, his mind engrossed with his subject, until he has composed an entire paragraph, when he sits down and writes it, never refouching." Here is another autobiographic passage:—"He told me about his library in London, which is surpassed (among private libraries) only by that belonging to Mr. Van de Weyer, the Belgian Minister, whose wife is the daughter of our Bostonian Mr. Bates, of Barings. Buckle has twenty-two thousand volumes, all selected by himself; and he takes great pleasure in them. He spends eight or nine hundred pounds a year upon his library." The sum here given is greater than we have heard stated as the sum so spent, and is probably a wrong recollection. There are other curious tit-bits of Mr. Buckle's talk in the

SCIENCE.

MR. BALFOUR STEWART ON MAGNETIC DISTURBING-FORCES.

THE British Association must surely be con-I gratulated upon the fact that the study of the Earth's Magnetism, which it has done so much to foster in this country, promises not only to lead to most important practical results in the hands of our meteorologists, but to supply us with a key to many cosmical phenomena that seemed hopelessly beyond our investigation. Thames-side Kew. thanks to these inquiries, will for the future possess an interest not to be completely eclipsed by its botanical one. The following abstract of Mr. Balfour Stewart's lecture, lately delivered at the Royal Institution, will show that this interest in the work done there by himself and others is not without ample justification.

The lecturer commenced by remarking that it had long been a well-known fact that, when a bar of steel has been magnetized, it has received from some mysterious cause a tendency to assume a definite position with respect to the Earth. This force, which emanates from the earth, is but a directive one-that is, it neither bodily attracts nor repels the needle upon which it acts, but merely twists or directs it, the direction in which it acts being subject to many changes. There is a secular change, in virtue of which the position of the needle 200 years since was very different from its position at present; there are annual and daily variations; there is a variation depending on the hour angle of the moon; and, lastly, there are the sudden and abrupt changes of direction, called magnetic storms. These formed more particularly the subject of the lecture. During these "storms" the needle oscillates rapidly and capriciously backwards and forwards; and, as

was proved by Gauss, these magnetic disturbances attacked the needle at different places at precisely the same moment of time. Indeed General Sabine showed that the magnet was affected at Toronto at precisely the same moment as at Göttingen-so that it may be said that these remarkable disturbances break out at the same moment over every portion of our globe.

Having pointed out that these disturbances are cosmical in their character, the lecturer then remarked that they are dependent upon the Sun, inasmuch as they obey a daily law. This has been placed beyond doubt, chiefly through the labours of General Sabine, who has elaborately

discussed the observations of the magnet at Toronto and the other colonial observatories; and it has also been shown by Mr. Broun from his observations of the needle at Makerstown, in Scotland.

These disturbances have, however, a much more interesting bond of connection with our luminary. Professor Schwabe of Dessau, who has now for nearly forty years been observing sun-spots, finds that these have a maximum period about every ten years-two of these periods being the years 1848 and 1859. General Sabine, having found that the aggregate value of magnetic disturbances at Toronto attained a maximum in 1848, was not slow to observe that this was also Schwabe's period of maximum sunspots; and it was afterwards found, from the Kew observations, that 1859, another of Schwabe's years, was also a year of maximum magnetic disturbance. This fact suggests the existence of some other great bond of union between the different members of our system besides that of gravitation. There is also some ground for believing that on one occasion our luminary was taken in the act of causing a magnetical disturbance. On the first of September, 1859, two astronomers-Messrs. Carrington and Hodgson-were independently observing a large spot, when, about 11.15 a.m., they noticed a very bright star of light suddenly break out over the spot, moving with great velocity over the sun's surface. On Mr. Carrington's sending to Kew Observatory, at which place the position of the magnet is recorded continuously by photography, it was found that at that very moment there had been a magnetic disturbance.

The lecturer next mentioned that magnetic disturbances are invariably accompanied by auroræ and earth-currents, and that, although we are quite in the dark with regard to the connection between sun-spots and disturbances, we may yet conjecture the nature of that bond which connects together magnetic disturbances, auroræ and earth-

In developing this hypothesis, reference was made to the parallelopiped of forces, and to a supposititious case in the more familiar science of meteorology. Suppose that the wind were to blow downwards upon us in a slanting direction, and we wished to ascertain both the force of the wind and its direction, how should we proceed? We must have three pressure plates-a north and south, an east and west, and an up and down pressure plate. These will give us respectively the north and south, the east and west, and the up and down components of the wind's force; and, if we make these into the three sides of a rectangular parallelopiped, the diagonal will represent the wind in direction and in force. Something of this kind must be done if we wish to record the disturbing force which acts upon the needle. We must have three magnets, one freely suspended and pointing to magnetic north and south, one twisted round to magnetic east and west, and one balanced on a knife-edge, so as to move up and down; and it is easy to see how these three magnets will take the place of the pressure plate in the meteorological problem. Now, if a mirror be attached to each of these magnets, it may be made to reflect the image of a dot of light upon a sheet of sensitive paper, and if the paper itself be moved by clock-work, a curved line, or rather three curved lines, will be obtained, representing the position of the three magnets from hour to hour. We are thus furnished with a continuous record of those changes which are taking place in the three components of the Earth's magnetic force.

Now, from the three curved lines for September 1-2, 1859, it appeared that, about four o'clock in the early morning of September 2nd, the three components of the Earth's magnetism at Kew were simultaneously disturbed by a force which kept them to one side of their normal or undisturbed position for several hours. During this time brilliant aurorae were universally observed, and earth-currents also-the latter especially by Mr. C. V. Walker-on the various telegraphic wires. These currents were found to change their direction every two or three minutes, alternating from positive to negative. Such currents

could not, therefore, be the cause of a disturbance which kept the needles in one direction for many hours. An inspection of the disturbance-curve will show, however, that there are small wavelets, or peaks and hollows, superimposed upon the great disturbance wave, and that these change every two or three minutes—in which respect they are similar to earth-currents.

Bearing in mind that these peaks and hollows represent small but rapid changes, in opposite directions, of the Magnetism of the Earth, Mr. Stewart connected them with earth-currents and auroræ by the following beautiful hypothesis. Compare the body of the earth to the soft iron core of a Ruhmkorff's coil, the lower and non-conducting strata of the atmosphere to the insulator of this machine, and the upper and conducting strata of the atmosphere and of the earth to the secondary coil: then, just as, in the Ruhmkorff machine, a sudden increase in the magnetism of the core produces a secondary current in one direction, and a sudden diminution of the magnetism a current in the opposite direction; so a sudden increase of the earth's magnetism, or a curve-rise will produce an aurora and earth-current in one direction, and a sudden decrease of the earth's magnetism, or a curve fall, the same phenomenon—only in an opposite direction. Possibly, therefore, the sun, when creating a terrestrial aurora, creates also an aurora in his own atmosphere.

Now have we any possible means of knowing whether auroræ do actually exist in the sun, anymore than in any of our sister planets, which may, as it were, burst forth into auroræ at his mysterious bidding? Mr. Stewart thinks it highly probable that we do possess this knowledge; and contends that the red flames which every one has seen in Mr. De la Rue's exquisite photographs of the "Spanish Eclipse" are nothing else than solar auroræ. They are for the most part curvilinear, possessed of great actinic power, and extend 70,000 miles above the sun's photosphere—all points in favour of this hypothesis. If this be conceded, we have at once an almost perfect method of determining the relative heights of the solar and terrestrial atmospheres, for the admirable researches of Mr. Gassiot have taught us that electricity cannot pass through a vacuum. However high, therefore, aurore are observed, there atmosphere

The latter part of this most interesting lecture was taken up in showing, by means of some admirably constructed models, that the magnets are not in their various directions obeying only one directive force—the duality of the disturbing forces announced by General Sabine being unmistakably evidenced by the Kew instruments. This, one of the most difficult problems in magnetical research, is now engaging the attention of our scientific men; and the admirable example of good work set at Kew, and the instruments built upon the Kew model, which are now being procured by foreign governments; and others, which, it is hoped, will soon be in the southern hemisphere, give us, Mr. Stewart considers, ample grounds for the belief that ere the next period of maximum sun-spots we shall have solved the problem.

SCIENTIFIC SUMMARY.

M. LUTHER, that indefatigable planet-hunter, has discovered fnother—the seventy-eighth—asteroid, which he has named Diana. The planet is of the tenth magnitude, and was detected at Bilk on the 15th ultimo, when its position was R.A. 180° 12′ 7″ and Dec.—7° 20′ 3″, with a retrograde movement in right ascension of 2^s in one hour.

Mr. Birt, who has for some years been making most valuable and minute observations of different portions of our satellite, with one of the smallest instruments-under three inches aperture -- belonging to the Astronomical Society, has, we are delighted to hear, received an accession to his instrumental means from the Royal Society, in the shape of an object-glass (by Cooke) of four inches aperture, mounted by Messrs. Smith and Bech. As Professor Phillips, we believe, is also at the present time engaged upon the moon, and as the exquisite photographs of Mr. De La Rue render its minute observation much more easy, Selene will no longer be neglected as she has been-we presume, on account of her nearness. Mr. Birt, we learn, intends commencing his labours by mapping Plato on a large scale, and devoting one map to the twentieth part of a lunation.

PROFESSOR HUXLEY describes, in a recent number of the proceedings of the Geological Society,

a new Labyrinthodont from the Lanarkshire coal-field, found in, or else close to, the Airdrie, or Mushet's Black Band Ironstone, a stratum which lies some 560 feet below the topmost coalmeasures, and promises to become one of the most fruitful sources of Labyrinthodont remains. After an elaborate discussion of the fossil, Professor Huxley states that the characters of the certainly Labyrinthodont vertebræ made known by Von Meyer and Plieninger, and in the present paper, are in perfect accordance with the view originally put forward by Professor Owen, that these animals are more closely allied to the Batrachia than to any of the Reptilia proper, the affinities of the Labyrinthodonts being clearly with the Saurobatrachia (and, in some cranial characters, with the Cacilia), and not with the Anura, as was at first suggested; and, it is also doubted whether, in any characters, these Amphibia exhibit a real approximation to the Reptilia. At present we are acquainted with two apparently very distinct types among the Labyrinthodonts — that of the Archegosauria (Archegosaurus), at present known to occur only in the Carboniferous rocks, and that of the Mastodonsauria (Mastodonsaurus, Labyrinthodon, Capitosaurus, Trematosaurus), which seem to have flourished in remarkable abundance during the Triassic epoch. Both groups exhibit many of the distinctive features of the Labyrinthodont Amphibia, as well as the more or less complex ramifications of the pulp-cavities of the teeth, which they share with fishes and Ichthyosauria. But the Archegosauria have imperfectly ossified vertebral bodies, while the Mastodonsauria have them thoroughly ossified, though still biconcave; and the Mastodonsauria have double ossified occipital condyles, which have not been found in Archegosauria. Of the unquestionable Labyrinthodonts which occur in the Carboniferous rocks, then, Anthracosaurus is the only genus regarding the vertebral column and ribs of which there is any information; and the description given seems to necessitate the conclusion that, side by side with the Archegosaurian type, the Mastodonsaurian type of vertebral organization, hitherto known to occur only in the Trias, was well developed in the Anthracosaurus of the Scotch coal-field. At the same time, many points of difference separate Anthracosaurus from any known Triassic Labyrinthodont. And though, in the general form of the cranium and in some other respects, Anthracosaurus has a certain resemblance to the Permian Dasyceps, it differs as widely as possible from it in its dentition.

An interesting communication on the motion of vapours towards the cold appears in the Philosophical Magazine for this month. The author of it, Mr. Woods, of Parsonstown, referring to the idea that camphor moves towards the light, stated that the results of several experiments led him to the conclusion that temperature, not light, was the moving power. In one of these experiments some iodine was dissolved in a saturated solution of camphor in alcohol, so as to colour it darkly; and when he exposed a little of this mixture in a corked flat phial in a window, it was found that, on whichever side was the warmer, the coloured fluid rose by capillary attraction, and on that side only. In fact, a most sensitive differential thermometer was obtained-for, no matter how slight the difference of temperature of the sides, although unappreciable to the most delicate thermometer, the capillary attraction caused a rise of the liquid on the side of the vessel nearer the heat, and the height attained seemed proportional to the differ-ference of temperature. If vapour of water be in the bottle—a condition easily brought about by placing a drop or so of water on the side of the vessel within, not mixing them with the spirit—it will always be deposited on the side opposite to that on which the rise of the fluid by capillary attraction takes place, no matter how the light falls upon the bottle. Mr. Woods thinks this simple contrivance for showing difference of temperature should be turned to some account by meteorologists.

ALL who possess microscopes, and lack the time for preparing Dermids as they are worthy of being prepared, will thank the Rev. J. B. Reade for the following method, which he has practiced with the greatest success. It consists in taking advantage of the endowments of the living organisms; whence it results that they become firmly attached to appropriate surfaces, while any impurities that may be mixed with them may be readily diffused through the water which contains them. Putting the gathering into a wide shallow vessel—as a common soup-plate—and covering it completely with water, he sets the whole aside

for ten or twelve hours, by which time the Dermids will have become fixed to the surface of the plate; then, by gently tilting the plate and agitating the water, the foreign substances will be diffused through the liquid, and by pouring off the water, will be removed with it. This may be repeated, if necessary, without detaching the Dermids; then, by adding clean water, the Dermids may be separated and transmitted to the receiving bottle perfectly clean and free from all foreign matter.

LEARNED SOCIETIES.

Institute of British Architects, March 23rd, 1863. William Tite, M.P., President, in the chair.—The death of the late Duca di Serradifalco, honorary and corresponding member of this Institute, was announced; and the President and Professor Donaldson spoke of the high merits of the work "Le Antichità della Sicilia," &c., of which he had been the author. An exceedingly interesting paper was then read by the Rev. John Louis Petit, M.A., F.S.A., hon. member, "On the Abbeys of Ireland," illustrated by a profusion of original sketches by himself. In the discussion which ensued, Mr. Gordon Hills, associate, added much valuable information, which he had gleaned in personal investigation in the same field.

Anthropological, March 24th, 1863. Sir Charles Nicholson Bart., V.-P., in the chair.—A paper by Captain Burton on "A day amongst the Fans" was read by the Honorary Secretary. Captain Burton's observations leave no doubt that cannibalism is habitually practised by the Fans, although, as the habit has been found distasteful to the civilized races, it is now generally concealed. Human flesh is not, however, used as an ordinary article of food, the bodies of slain enemies only being eaten. No joint of man is ever seen in the settlements, the sick are not devoured, and the dead are decently interred. The Fans rank high in the scale of life as compared with other savage nations, and are much more civilized than the tribes near the coast. The theory that the lowest races of mankind are found in regions inhabited by the anthropoid apes is therefore most certainly untrue as regards the gorilla country.

A paper by Prof. Raimondi (translated by Mr. Bollaert) on "The Indian Tribes of the Great District of Soreto, in Northern Peru," was then read.

TUESDAY, April 7th. The President, Dr. Hurst, in the chair.—A PAPER by Mr. Gore, "On the Brain of a Microcephalic Female Idiot," was read by Mr. Blake, the hon. secretary, and a cast of the skull was placed on the table, together with some other remarkable skulls with which to compare it. The female who formed the subject of the notice lived to the age of forty-two, but had never exhibited any signs of reasoning powers. She was incapable of uttering more than a few words, and walked unsteadily and with difficulty. The skull was very diminutive, and the brain weighed only ten ounces, it being the smallest brain of which there is any record, and the convolutions were very imperfectly developed.

Professor Owen made some observations on the skull. Alluding to the attempts that have been made to find a link of connexion between man and apes, he remarked that it was possible that an idiot with an imperfectly developed brain might wander into some cave, and there die, and in two or three hundred years his bones might be covered with mud or be imbedded in stalagmite, so that, when discovered, his skull might be adduced as affording the looked-for link connecting man with the inferior animals. But the brain of such an idiot as the female whose skull was exhibited was distinctly different from that of the anthropoid apes; and he expressed the opinion that the difference is too wide to be bridged over by the skull of any creature yet discovered.

Mr. Blake took the same view of the subject as

Mr. Blake took the same view of the subject as Professor Owen. A long discussion ensued, in which the Duke of Rousillon, Mr. Burke, Dr. M'Adam, Mr. Dunne, Mr. Mackie, the President, and other gentlemen took part. The meeting then adjourned to the 21st instant.

Institution of Civil Engineers, March 24. John Hawkshaw, Esq., President, in the chair.—The chief paper read was "Public Works in Pernambuco, Brazil," by Mr. W. M. Peniton, M. Inst. C. E. Experience had proved that, both in the province of Pernambuco and in the adjoining province, there was an ample supply of manual labour for any public works, or

extension of agricultural operations, at present probable. But the difficulty was to persuade the native Brazilians that it was to their advantage to seek employment. The only work that the native was accustomed to was ditching, and the only tool, the hoe. The first lesson was to induce a native to give up the hoe, and take to the pick and shovel. With the native artisans the difficulties were greater still. From the description which was given of the capabilities of the native workmen, it was believed that foreigners must be imported for all the higher orders of work.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, March 25th. T. J. Pettigrew, F.R.S., F.S.A., Vice-President, in the chair. J. H. Challis, Esq., of 35, St. James's Place, and the Chairman (for the time being) of the Library committee of the Corporation of London, were elected Associates .- Mr. Wentworth, of Woolley Park, exhibited a placita in an action at Nisi Prius, 31° Edw. III., Joan Voy, of Pontefract, versus Sir Peter De Mauley, of Doncaster, Knt.; also, an Inquisitio post Mortem with regard to the estate of the same Joan Voy, dated 43° Edw. III. Mr. Gunston exhibited two bone-tubes, apparently the handles of large implements found in Egypt; one was carved with rings and a band of eyelet-holes, the other with triangles and cross lines. Mr. Gunston also exhibited a small bone-haft, of early date, incised on each side with two lines of chevrons, found at Clerkenwell, and a triangular blade of bone, probably a spatula, found with Roman antiquities in Southwark. Mr. T. Wright read a paper, written by the Chairman, "On Thuribles," giving their history, and an account of the ribles," giving their history, and an account of the most remarkable specimens in gold, silver, copper, bronze, and terra cotta. Several examples were produced by Mr. Pettigrew, Mr. Forman, Mr. Fitch, and others.

SOCIETY OF ARTS, March 25th. Thomas King Chambers, Esq., M.D., in the chair.—The paper read was "On the Supply of Quinine, and the Cultivation of the Chinchona Plants in India," by Mr. Clements R. Markham, F.S.A. It was remarkable that no attempt worth mentioning had ever been made in South America, either to cultivate the chinchona, or to enforce any system of preservation. On the temperate and sub-tropical slopes of the cordilleras of the Andes the genus chinchona flourished, and in no other part of the world. These healing plants were entirely confined by nature to one particular region; and it was to the certainty of possessing a close monopoly that the utter recklessness of the South Americans in their treatment of chinchona trees might be referred. The chinchona region embraced portions of four of the South American Republics, namely, New Grenada, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia; and the inhabitants of these countries had rivalled each other in their reckless destruction of the chinchona trees, with a view to immediate profit. Even Peru had now ceased to supply any bark, and Bolivia would soon be exhausted. There was little hope, in the author's opinion, that this evil can be remedied by any means that are likely to be adopted in South America itself, and it therefore became necessary to look to other countries, and especially to India for a great portion of our future supply. If the most valuable species of chinchona plants could be successfully introduced into India, this would not only ensure a sufficient and unfailing supply of quinine for the use of Europeans, but would also bring this inestimable drug within the reach of the native population. When these considerations were placed before Lord Stanley in 1859, he at once saw the importance of the measure, and it was under his auspices that it was undertaken. The management of the enterprise was entrusted to the author, who undertook the superintendence of the collection of chinchona plants and seeds of all the valuable species in South America, and of their introduction into India. He described the immense difficulties with which he had had to contend in collecting the seeds in South America. In this, however, after much labour he had been successful; and the next point was to select the best sites in India for the plantations. Two tracts of land had been fixed upon which appeared in every way suitable, and the increase in number of plants since their introduction had been very great; for, whereas in January, 1862, there were only about 8000 plants on the Neiigherry hills, in January, 1863, there were 127,000. The author described his mode of cultivation, and then passed to the commercial considerations involved in the question. The profits promised to be large, as the cost of producing a pound of bark was stated to be about threepence—the price in the London markets being from half-a-crown to eight shillings.

INSTITUTE OF ACTUARIES, Monday, March 30th. Charles Jellicoe, Esq., President, in the chair.— A PAPER by Mr. Jardine Henry, "On the Relation of the Carlisle Table to the Government, the Registrar-General's, and other Tables of Mor-

ROYAL INSTITUTION, Monday, April 6th, 1863. The Rev. J. Barlow, M.A., F.R.S., Vice-President, in the chair.—At the General Monthly Meeting, Leveson Francis Vernon Harcourt, Esq., B.A., William Harvey, Esq., F.R.C.S.L., Joseph Norman Lockyer, Esq., F.R.A.S., Paul Julius Reuter, Esq., Octavius Sturges, Esq., Frederick Thompson, Esq., Robert Wigram, Esq., were elected Members of the Royal Institution; Col. Dickens, Abraham Pope, Esq., John R. Russell, M.D., John Rivington, Esq., were admitted Members of the Royal Institution.

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY, APRIL 18th.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL, at 8.30.—Burlington House. Sir R. I. Murchison, K.C.B., President, in the chair. Papers to be rend: 1. "Frobischer Strait proved to be a Bay, and on the Fate of the men of the Arctic Expedition in the reign of Elizabeth:" Captain C. F. Hall, of Ohio. 2. "A Visit to Red River and the Saskatchiwan:" Dr. Jno. Rac, M.D., &c.

Medical, at 8.30.—32a, George Street, Hanover Square, "On Intestinal Stricture:" Mr. Gay,

TUESDAY, APRIL 14th.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Albemarle Street. "On Animal Mechanics:" John Marshall, Esq., F.R.S.

Institution of Civil Engineers, at 8.—25, Great George Street, Westminster. 1. Discussion upon Mr. Moller's Paper on "Structures in the Sea." 2. "Description of the Line and Works of the Scinde Railway:" Mr. John Brunton, M.I.C.E.

ETHNOLOGICAL, at 8.—4, St. Martin's Place, Trafalgar Square. "On the Antiquity of Man:" John Crawfurd, Esq.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16th.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Albemarle Street. "On the Relations of Geology with the Allied Sciences:" D. T. Ansted, Esq., F.R.S.

CHEMICAL, at 8.—Burlington House. "Derivatives of Napthycomine:" Messrs. W. H. Perkin and A. H. Church.

FRIDAY, APRIL 17th.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 8.—Albemarle Street. "On the Culture of Fish:" Frank Buckland, Esq.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18th.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Albemarle Street. "On the Science of Language:" Prof. Max Muller.

ART.

SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS. (SECOND NOTICE.)

ART-TEACHING IN ENGLAND.

THE collapse of the society which has for some years held its exhibition in the Portland Gallery, has proved advantageous to the exhibition in Suffolk Street. The committee has had the op-portunity of selecting from a larger number of pictures, and of appropriating the strength, while rejecting the weakness, that distinguished the annual display of the late society. The advantage that has accrued to Suffolk Street may be seen particularly in the element of landscape painting; and the accession of the family of Williams alone would claim attention and

This family of painters, some of the member which have become public favourites under other names, is remarkable, not only for having founded a school of landscape painting, but as affording one of the two instances (the Linnells being the other) in which a school has been founded upon certain accepted principles, held in common by all its members, and manifest in all their work. The strength resulting from a well-organized system of teaching, which we here see in a particular instance, may be noted on an extended, and indeed on a national scale, in the splendid schools of France and of Belgium. Our great want in England, as far as the art of painting concerns us, is a true and systematic education: such a one as could be liberally offered to, and gratefully received by, every art-student. As the youth of the nation is taught to spell and to read, so should its artists be taught to draw and to paint. It is not the power of thinking or of reflection that fails in the works of English painters, but the power of giving expression to thought—the power of drawing, composition, and painting: in itself not the result of natural genius, but of a common art-education. Probably there are not, at this moment, six men in England who could plan and execute one of those large altar-pieces to be found in the parish church of every Italian village, and which, nevertheless, we most rightly abuse for false sentiment, conventionality, and bad taste. We are unable to express our truer thoughts upon the canvas with anything approaching to the power, the skill, and the knowledge that have been expended upon works we so very properly condemn. Until we have attained, by a helpful system of education, to a more general power of performance, we must be contented with the criticism of the great French painter, on the English School in the French International Exhibition, who, while giving us the highest credit for the mental element apparent in our pictures, rated them as the works of highly sensitive amateurs. It is, therefore, we think, only a just tribute to the painters who have founded such schools as are represented by the art of the Williamses and Linnells, to acknowledge that we are indebted to them for precisely that step in the right direction, which we could wish to see commonly taken by our leading painters.

We are not really learning to paint in our present schools. How can certificated trainingschoolmasters teach the art that was taught to the Italians and Flemings by Raffaelle, Rubens, and but just now to the French by Paul Delaroche? Art amongst us should be taught, as well as practised, by such men as Landseer, Millais, and Hunt. The schools of Messrs. Williams and Linnell have been confined to their own families; and the works of their sons, admirable as they are, yet show the strong family-likeness which we might expect to find. Could we see a school presided over by Landseer, by Watts, or by Hunt, a genuine advance of the whole school would result, while the fame of our great painters would be increased tenfold. Neither the Schools of the Royal Academy nor the Schools of Design, supply or provide for the training that is within the reach of every young Frenchman; and, although worthy of very great respect, they utterly fail to enlist the sympathy or excite the enthusiasm of the students. The personal influence of a great teacher is altogether left out in our present system of training; and any system must be a dead thing

without it. The most remarkable characteristic, next to the intrinsic merit of the landscapes of the Messrs. Williams, Percy, Boddington, and Gilbert, is the general similarity of subject and treatment, which makes it difficult to discriminate between The great number of pictures prothem. duced by them has also its effect in somewhat dulling the keen edge of our perception of their real excellence. If we should see, now, for the first time, a landscape combining the various merits of Mr. Percy's "Welsh Pasture-view, near Maentwiog, North Wales" (492), or Mr. A. W. Williams's "Lake of Geneva, from Vevey" (363), we should all hasten to express our admiration for the high qualities they exhibit. We have been used to see such pictures as these, equally good, every year, and, knowing that excellence is rare, we are inclined to doubt the quality of the article that seems so abundant. We are wrong in so judging: the quality is, indeed, rare, though the article be plentiful; and, in this case, the painters are many, as well as prolific. All the greatest painters of the world have been prolific; and, could we see a collection of the pictures of Claude, for example, we should probably not feel inclined to condemn the art of the Williamses, either for sameness or for over-productiveness.

a member of this society Mr. Boddington i and exercises his privilege of sending numbers of pictures: as many as nine, large and small. His large Welsh landscape, "The Close of an Autumnal Day" (155), will be appreciated by all who have observed the October skies of a mountainous country. Contrasting with this, and very truly studied, are the luminous effects represented in the pictures of "The Old Moat-house-Evening" (422), and "Medmeham Abbey-Evening"

(633).

With all the ability and experience of the painters of whom we have been speaking, we are bound still to say that the present display barely equals those of former years. Neither do we think that the best landscape in the gallery is to be found among the works they have contributed. The credit due, as we think, for the best landscape we have seen this year must be given to a young painter and member of the society, Mr. Vincent Cole. "The Road over the Heath" (95) represents just one of those unenclosed stretches of landscape, happily for the lovers of wild scenery, still so common in England. One seems to be standing on the old track that was probably cut by the footsteps of Britons, and over which Roman, Saxon, and English pedestrians have stepped lightly, as their blood coursed rapidly through their veins, oxydized by the fresh breeze that is playing over the heather and amongst the luminous clouds, whose movements are reflected

in the flitting shadows on the sweet-scented earth. The sheep are straying on to the path that leads us into that sweet, cultivated distance. The two fern-cutters we have so long watched, have stopped to gossip opposite the group of dark firs on the high ground to the left. We must dip into the great hollow that lies between us, before we shall be up with them. We feel that we are very happy—that the birds are singing blithely; and, as the sharp healthy breeze finds its way to our lungs, we declaim against the policy of enclosing waste lands. Such is the story, at least, which Mr. Cole has told to us in this little picture; and the highest praise we can give him is to let him know that his story has come home to our hearts. Two other works are exhibited by the same painter-"Harvesting" (295), which is injured by the execution of the group of trees, and a water-colour drawing of exquisite truthfulness, "A Beech Copse" (856). The large landscape by Mr. Cole, senior, "The Approaching Storm in Autumn-The Last Load" (31), is the best of the six pictures he exhibits. It is a very noble work. The sky is finely drawn. The painting of a sky has been justly called the great test of a landscape-painter's power. A higher faculty than the imitative one-which copies accurately a bit of paling and a few dock leaves, or elaborates a sanfoin or clover-field—is essential to reproduce the fleeting forms of the storm and the rain-cloud. Mr. Cole has painted the storm-cloud with true effect, as it comes surging over the harvest-field. The horses pull with a will as the peasants urge them forward to get the last load off the field before the downfall of the heavy rain that already is preluded by large drops.

Other, and very good landscapes in this exhibition, are those by Mr. Gosling, also a member of the society. His fine picture of "Summer on the Thames" (202) will commend itself to all who love to bask on the bosom of the beautiful river in the summer sheen. One quality alone is wanting in this happy presentation of a charming scene—and that is transparency in the shadows. We do not forget that it has been produced by clever painting. Placed beside a fine Linnell or Turner, it would look what is technically called "painty." In the smaller pictures, "Outskirts of a Wood" (61), and "A Farmstead on the Lodden" (613), we do not find this opacity. They are better in colour, and look like genuine studies from nature, made on the spot.

Mr. Anthony, formerly the leading spirit of the society, but who left it some years back to exhibit his pictures in Trafalgar Square, returns to his old love-not as a member, but as a simple exhibitor; he sends only one picture, and this is not generously hung. The subject is "Langham Castle, Caermarthenshire" (400). It is a very noble work, and very melancholy—suggestive of histories, long since forgotten, and of generations passed away. The silent ruin stands against the gloomy gray sky, its own sad memorial; the ebbing tide, as it discloses the dark stony beach, aids the effect of grim desolation. As in all Mr. Anthony's works, there is wonderful reality in it. Those who remember how this painter electrified his contemporaries some twelve or fifteen years since, and who have noted how the Royal Academy has treated his pictures since he left Suffolk Street, will not be able to refrain from some feeling of regret at the mode of his welcome back. If, in leaving the Society of British Artists, he showed, in their eyes, some ingratitude, the reception he has met with elsewhere might have proved a sufficient triumph.

There is one landscape painter whose pictures form one of the main attractions of every exhibition in Suffolk Street, of whose art we would rather not speak. Possessing, as he unquestionably does, almost transcendent abilities, immense knowledge, and unerring skill, Mr. Pyne seems to engage all his powers in representing things to be that which, to the great majority of people with eyes in their heads, they certainly are not; and this cannot be laid to the lack of appreciative power on the part of the spectators. Those who see with the best educated eyes, will most readily detect that Mr. Pyne looks at nature through a veil of his own manufacture. The greatest qualities are useless unless this veil be torn away. An illustration of Mr. Pyne's predetermined or in-dependent treatment of fact may be seen in the "Canalè posta, Venice" (37). The dark-green water of the sea-borne city is, for the sake of an agreeable effect, changed into the colour-less flood of Rotterdam. We have seen the rippled waters of Venice a-blaze with light; but that has been when one side of every ripple has reflected the shining sky-whereas, in this picture the sky is blue, and not particularly luminous. It is quite true that small particular truths may be, and should be, subordinated to the greater truth of relation which Mr. Pyne perhaps seeks to express; but this great truth really embraces all truths, and falsifies nothing. In the manufacture of a picture, there is a certain relation of one part to another, which may be most skilfully felt, and yet be altogether conceived and executed in a false key. If so, every part will be as false as the whole; and the presence of great knowledge and skill in the painter, should not blind us to defects which would be laid bare if the execution were unskilful, or the knowledge imperfect. Mr. Pyne stands at the head of the most popular section of our landscape painters; but not by their art has our school of landscape attained its high consideration and established renown.

We have not space to remark upon the works of Messrs. A. Clint, Danby, Tennant, and others who have exhibited very meritorious landscapes. There are two admirable works by that clever animal. painter, Mr. R. Physick, jun., "A Doubtful Reception" (77), and "A Goat and Kids" (375). The former of these represents the approach of a kitten to the kennel of a bitch, who is well advanced in front of her litter. The kitten has evidently been on speaking terms with the mother before the late happy increase of her family, but is not quite sure whether the present visit is altogether well-timed. This little picture will delight all who have studied cat-and-dog nature; and we congratulate Mr. Physick on the good opinion he has elicited from all who have seen it. A piece of still life by a lady, Mrs. Anderson (669), "A Christmas Present from the Hall," is the most vigorous bit of painting that we have seen from a lady for a long time, and can scarcely be overlooked, as it strikes the eye on freshly entering the room from the street, by its clever treatment and powerful colour. We conclude our notice of this exhibition by recommending our readers to go and see it for themselves. The landscapes will certainly repay them for their

THE Council of the Society of Arts, at the request of the Society of Wood-carvers, are to allow the use of their rooms for an Exhibition of Wood-carving in the month of June. They are to offer their silver medal, and to make a grant of £30, in addition to £15 given by the Wood-carvers' Society, so as to make a fund for prizes to be awarded to the best exhibitors. For the best human figure in alto or bas-relief, with or without accessories of animals or natural foliage, there is to be awarded a first prize of £8, with the silver medal; for the second best, £4; for the third, £3. First, second, and third prizes of the same money-value are also to be given for works of "animal or still life," and for works of "natural foliage, fruit, or flowers, or conventional ornament." Various regulations are announced; and articles for exhibition are to be sent in on or before the 1st of June.

MUSIC.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.

THE Covent Garden Opera House opened its doors on Tuesday with a performance of "Masaniello:" a performance which, it may be said at once, gave a crowded audience a delightful evening, and proved the resources of the place to be well up to the high level of past seasons. "A good character," in the language of copy-book morals, "is better than gold;" and Mr. Gye must by this time have found it to be at least as good. For many years past we have been accustomed to see in the Covent Garden administration every sign of an intelligent, zealous, and honest management; and the result is that one steps across the vestibule on the "first night" with reasonable confidence that the house will be found doing its best as heretofore-that what is there set before the public will be as good as it can be made, regard being had to the thousand difficulties and troubles incident to the business of an impresario. This confidence was justified by the performance of "Masaniello" on Tuesday night. The cast, though satisfactory, was not of remarkable strength; but the completeness of the representation, taken as a whole, atoned for the absence of any dominant vocal genius. The band and chorus are such that it is quite a pleasure to listen to either. In pieces so full of multitudinous life and bustling action as are most of the so-called "grand" operas of the French school, a band and chorus like Mr. Costa's are invaluable. Art-matters are are so many-sided that it is seldom that even the

most sympathetic criticism can find a subject for absolutely unqualified praise. Not often can we say of anything—this is perfection. But of the orchestra at Covent Garden it would be an injustice to say less than this. Its sumptuousness of tone, the never-flagging spirit of its play, and its splendid discipline, make up a sum-total of merits which it is really impossible to exaggerate. Whatever there is to complain of in Mr. Costa's treatment of other sorts of music, in other places, as leader of an opera-band he is faultless, and in that place he is a true Master. The chorus, too, is, in its kind, first-rate. Its singing shows a degree of delicacy and unanimity which would be remarkable in even the most perfectly trained church-choir, and which have probably never been before equalled upon the stage.

In "Masaniello" the chorus has an important part to play as well as to sing. One of the most telling improvements of later years in the musical drama has been this plan of making the chorus take a part in the action. In operas of simple form, and under the old régime, it was sufficient for the ladies and gentlemen of the choir to range themselves in two ranks, forming sides to a triangle of which the footlights were the base, and there to deliver themselves of emotional comments on the proceedings of the other characters concerned—"Io tremo d' orror," "O sventura terribile," &c. The discovery that a body of persons might, with some little training, be made capable of acting the emotions of a multitude, has materially enlarged the resources of opera. Lord Mount-Edgeombe mentions with almost surprise the acting of the Prisoners' Chorus in "Fidelio," on its production in England, some thirty years ago, by a German company. The novelty of the thing produced a nightly encore. Since that time Meyerbeer's historical operas have shown what immense effects can be thus produced. In "Masaniello" the life and vraisemblance of the piece depend much upon the chorus. That of Covent Garden is capitally managed. keeps moving with something of the vivacity of the crowds in Mr. Kean's Shakespearian revivals. The scene at the fishing-cove, where Masaniello sings his Barcarolle, is capital. The assembled fishermen are the very counterparts (only cleaner) of the half-naked creatures one sees dabbling in the waters of the Mediterranean; and dance about with such glee to the burden of his ditty, that one seems to catch the electricity of the scene. The market-scene, where a shower of fish is hurled after the retreating soldiers, is a great coup. This, and the popular orgie in the royal palace, are excellently done. Of the singing of the chorus-music, the best specimens are the lovely bridal-hymn, in the first act, and the famous prayer preceding the émeute. pieces are most deliciously sung.

The present cast differs in many points from that of last season. M. Naudin, who replaces Signor Mario as Masaniello, is a tenor of great repute on the Parisian stage, having a voice of considerable power, but of a quality rather expressive than sweet. The defiant duet in the first act between Masaniello and Pietro (M. Faure) was sung with such spirit as to deserve and win an encore; but, in some of the louder passages, M. Naudin's tone tends to become what his countrymen call criard. As a piece of singing, the beautiful invocation to sleep, uttered over the unconscious Fenella, in the fourth act, was a fine performance. In this M. Naudin created an impression. That he has some of the higher qualities of an actor was shown by his play in the mad scene which precedes the catastrophe. In this he was excellent. Stagemadness is a malady commonly developed among sopranos, and is usually expressed by a letting down of the back hair, accompanied by convulsive smoothings of the right temple. M. Naudin is without these invaluable resources, but succeeds nevertheless. Certainly, if anything could drive a Neapolitan fisherman mad, it would be to find himself encased as to his legs in princely coverings of green velvet. Mdlle. Battu, who takes the part of Elvira, the only singing heroine—the dumb girl is the real centre of the action-shows herself an accomplished vocalist of the type most liked in France. Her voice is flexible, brilliant, and pure in tone; but, unfortunately, her singing has that exasperating vice, which is a mark of the present decadence of the vocal art—the inevitable, incessant, and ever wearisome tremolo. What bad angel has possessed the world of vocalists with the idea that a melody is improved by being uttered in a continuous shiver? One can only hope that this is one of those wretched caprices which vanish almost as suddenly as they arise; but the habit seems at present rather on the increase than otherwise. It corrupted the delicious tone of

Bosio, and has marred the broad simplicity which once marked the style of Tamberlik. Mdlle. Battu's singing would have, but for this defect, no small amount of charm; as it is, we can admire her only for what she might be. M. Faure's manly style, both as singer and actor, made his representation of Pietro, the sturdy fidus Achates of the hero, very acceptable. Every new part which this gentleman takes fortifies his position on the Italian stage. His rise has been gradual, but sure; and we may now reckon upon him with confidence as the baritone of many coming seasons. The pantomime of Mdlle. Salvioni, as the mute, is as eloquent a substitute for speech as can be desired. With the help of M. Auber's expressive strains (not to say anything of M. Scribe's stage directions), it tells her sad story so well that we cannot but be content with such a pretty way of talking.

The National Anthem, discreetly sung in chorus only, preceded the opera. A performance of such even excellence could not fail to satisfy the audience; but there is no harm in recording that the long, long intervals between the acts were some drawback to the evening's pleasure. Why should such a drawback be allowed? It surely is not necessary that "Masaniello" should last four hours. Half-past twelve is an irrational hour for quiet people to be out looking at an eruption of Mount Vesuvius.

MARRIED, on the 31st ult., at the Théâtre Lyrique, Paris, "Cosi fan tuttè," of the family of the late Wolfgang Mozart, to "Love's Labour Lost," one of the forty-two children of William Shakespeare, late of Stratford-on-Avon. Here is an odd alliance! but not a happy one, say some of those present at the ceremony. Detestable nonsense as is the libretto of Mozart's charming operetta, it argues more pluck than discretion to turn it into "Peines d'Amour perdues."

FLORENCE -- who would have thought it? -- is to have her Philharmonic Concerts, in the English sense. They are to be held in the large Pagliano Theatre. The promoters very reasonably say, that, as Italy has abandoned the sceptre of the world of song, and applauds nothing but screams (urli), she must indemnify herself by equalling other nations in instrumental music. The first concert drew an audience of 2000 to listen to Beethoven's C minor Symphony, the violin concerto and G minor pianoforte concerto of Mendelssohn, and other smaller works.

CARLOTTA PATTI'S transit from the Old World to the New is heralded by an amount of American enthusiasm which, coming from any other quarter of the globe, would imply great things. Her admirers in New York have taken quite a pious farewell of the young genius. " It is our earnest prayer," says the spokesman of a party of devotees, in presenting a diamond bracelet, "that your experiences and impressions of other lands may be of so delightful a nature that your friends may truly exclaim, in the language of the poet-

'Sweet bird! thy bower is ever green."

May the prayers of these good citizens be answered!

LA MARCHESA GAETINI, née Piccolomini, is said to be coming to England, expressly to sing at three performances to be given at Her Majesty's Theatre for the benefit of its ex-lessee, Mr. Lumley.

R. B. L.

MUSIC FOR NEXT WEEK.

APRIL 11th to 18th.

MONDAY.—Popular Concert (Vieuxtemps, Halle), St. James's Hall, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY.-Musical Union, First Concert, 3.30 p m. WEDNESDAY.—First New Philharmonic Concert, St. James's Hall, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY.—Crystal Palace Orchestral Concert.

OPERAS :-COVENT GARDEN.-To-night, "Puritani;" Monday, Extra Night.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.-To-night, "Trovatore."

THE DRAMA.

THE EASTER BURLESQUES.

THE reaction which, it has been predicted, will inevitably result from the large over-doses of burlesque to which the public taste has been for so many years subjected, is deferred for at least another holiday season. Judging by the noisy favour with which three out of the four extravaganzas produced on Monday night were received, no sign of relaxing patience or of cloyed appetite is yet to be detected in the patrons of this sort of entertainment. Indeed, it is clear that the professed burlesque writers are writing themselves

out with unnecessary haste. A little careful observation will convince them that, even if the palate of their patients has ceased to relish brandy, and can only be tickled with spirits of wine, it is their interest to put off as long as possible the administration of aqua fortis. In the Easter novelties, of which we shall presently give an account, there is more than a soupçon of vitriol. It is remarked that every line of the dialogue of these pieces contains a joke or a pun, or very often both, until the faculties of audiences are taxed beyond any power of response. Now even diamonds do not show to best advantage when presented by handfuls. It is inconsiderate to be extravagant, even in the concoction of an Easter extravaganza; and, to us, it appears that Mr. Byron and his confrères are squandering their means with reckless inconsiderateness. For a very long time they have had a very flourishing market; how much longer they may be able to keep it depends in a very great measure upon

their future mode of managing it.

During five or six years of what will be remembered in the dramatic history of the present century as the palmy days of burlesque, the Strand Theatre has been the head-quarters of the most accomplished burlesque actors in the kingdom. From various causes-death, illness, and secession-many of the names which shone brightest in the list of its company have been erased or removed, to shine with diminished lustre in the lists of other companies; but, upon the whole, the little theatre where the Protean spirit of burlesque first had a fixed and recognized rendezvous still keeps up its well-established fame. The Strand, therefore, though it is one of the smallest theatres in London, is fairly entitled to precedence of notice. Tempted, perhaps, by the great success of his "Aladdin; or, the Wonderful Scamp," as compared with that of "Ivanhoe," Mr. Byron has gone back to Eastern story for the subject of his extravaganza, and has laid very violent hands upon "Ali Baba." The fact that the same story had twice before been treated in burlesque fashion seems not to have daunted Mr. Byron in the least. In the version brought out at the Lyceum, some twenty years ago, by the Keeleys, we remember well Alfred Wigan, then slowly making his way to popular favour, playing the part of Mustapha, the poor cobbler, who is led blindfold by Morgiana to her late master's house, for the purpose of sewing together the remains of that unlucky visitor to the robber's cave. Mr. Byron has preferred to plunge into his subject in medias res, and begins with the wood-cutter's adventure in the wood. The result is a certain thinness of plot, which tells against the dramatic interest of the well-known tale. With pun and whimsicality the piece, as we have already indicated, is crammed to over-fulness. As we anticipated, the addition of Mr. George Honey to the company tells most advantageously. His ruffian, Hassarae, is a fine bit of burlesque acting, while the use he makes of his excellent bass voice and singing faculty adds greatly to the interest. As the dandy robber-chief, Miss Ada Swanborough played and sang with better effect than in any character in which we have yet seen her. Miss C. Saunders played the part of Morgiana with point and grace; but the character is not one that gives her much scope for acting. Miss Rosina Wright appears in a short ballet scene. The scenery is all new, and painted with excellent taste by Mr. Albert Calcott. The dresses are rich and beautiful; and it is pleasant to be able to say, in conclusion, that the public appear to be well satisfied.

The title of Mr. Byron's other piece, produced on the same evening at the Princess's, is "Beautiful Haidée; or, the Sea Nymph and the Sallee Rovers," and, as we intimated last week, the plot is compounded of the Haidée episode in "Don Juan," the old ballad of "Lord Bateman," and the legend of "Lurline"-the parts very cleverly fitted together. Like the Strand piece, it is, to Mr. Byron's benefit, capitally well cast and played. A more perfect Haidée than Miss M. Oliver could not be found. Instead of Don Juan, her lover is Lord Bateman, a young English nobleman, travelling "foreign countries for to see," in company with, or rather attended by, his tiger. His lordship, captivatingly played by Miss Murray, finds that Haidée and her parlour-maid, Zoe, are living in a certain Isle of Greece, on the shore of which his lordship with his tiger have been wrecked. The ladies give up their hearts almost without summons; and Haidée's papa, Lambro (Mr. G. Seyton), a respectable retired pirate, is content to have an English milor for his son-in-law. But he is deeply in debt to Desperado (Mr. G. Belmore), a terrible pirate, in active service, who demands Haidée's

hand in exchange for a receipt in full of all demands on her papa, and, failing to effect that simple sort of arrangement, carries off Haidée, her lover and his tiger, and her maid Zoe, on board his vessel. This, after being chased, is wrecked, and Lord Bateman goes to the bottom of the sea, and finds himself in the "Mermaid's Haunt." Here also his lordship finds himself again in demand by an unoccupied heart, which this time belongs to Coralie, a sea-nymph. He offers no very strong objections, but takes advantage of the ascent of an anchor, which is being weighed from above, to reach upper air in company with his new love-only to find the old one exposed for sale as a slave in the market-place of Stamboul; recalling vivid recollections of the famous sensation scene in Mr. Boucicault's drama of the "Octaroon." Pathetic reunion of Lord Bateman and Haidée, and wholly unforeseen pairing off of Desperado and Coralie; then away to the "Floral Hall of the Caryatides," and the Easterpiece is over!

With the story of "Acis and Galatæa," the subject of the burlesque-extravaganza produced at the Olympic on Monday evening, Mr. F. C. Burnand has taken certain liberties which are quite justifiable from his point of view. The introduction of Damon, a young farmer, and Phyllis, a shepherdess, in love with Acis, and of course jealous of Galatæa, gives him an opportunity of making several very effective turns in the plot. Mr. Burnand is altogether a more careful constructor than Mr. Byron; but he commits the same fault of over-crowding his dialogue with quibbles and word-wringings. His faculty of burlesquing the sounding nothings of the modern Italian opera is very remarkable. In the rendering of these he is very fortunate to have so accom-plished a singer as Miss Hughes. He is, in fact, altogether highly favoured in his cast. Mr. Atkins is perfectly at home, and "roars" with gusto in the part of the one-eyed love-tormented slave of Vulcan. Acis is played by an American lady, new to the London stage. Another débutante in London is Miss S. Taylor, who sustains the character of *Phyllis* in a manner that promises well. One of the "hits" of the burlesque is made by Miss Raynham, who gives a capital imitation of the manner and accent of M. Fechter. The copy so laughably reproduces the original that M. Fechter himself would be among the most amused could he witness it. The scenery is highly picturesque, if not highly elaborated. A "Rocky shore on the Sicilian coast," with advancing and receding waves, is a master-piece.

The fourth burlesque piece of the season, "The Great Sensation Trial; or, Circumstantial Effic-Deans," at the St. James's, cannot be recorded as a success. "The Heart of Midlothian" is not a ready-made subject for burlesque, and Mr. Brough has paid the penalty of having made a bad choice. Miss Marie Wilton and Mr. James Rogers worked hard to overcome the gravity of their audience, and for a while succeeded; but they were quite unable to bear up against the weight of the

The pièce de circonstance brought out on Monday evening at the Haymarket, for the purpose of introducing Mr. Telbin's panorama of Eastern scenery, is constructed after the fashion of the pieces which are popular on the French stage under the title of Revues. Mr. Buckstone is supposed to be anxiously debating with himself the best subject for an Easter entertainment; and the audience are shown what a manager's difficulties are in such a case by the incursion of a long procession of histrionic representatives, each pressing his or her services as best of all for the occasion. Hamlet in a black wig wrangles with Hamlet in flaxen locks, the one urging his claims in the peculiar tones of Mr. Charles Kean's voice, the other in the slightly un-English accent of M. Charles Fechter. So on, till High Comedy, Low Comedy, Burlesque, Melodrama, and Miss Fanny Wright, as Perea Nena, have said their say, when the Manager decides that the greatest novelty will be the afore-mentioned panorama. The little piece is written by Mr. Stirling Coyne, and does, in the neatest possible way, the work of introduction it was intended to perform. Of the pictures composing the series of Eastern views we may

Besides the pieces above-mentioned, there were two others, not of a holiday character, brought out on Monday evening, one at the Princess's, by Mr. J. M. Morton, entitled "Killing Time," the other at the Adelphi, by Mr. T. J. Williams, under the title of "The Trials of Tompkins." Both pieces are from the French, and they are good specimens of their kinds-the one an elegant

comedietta, the other a wild farce

speak hereafter.

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